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Esek Hopkins

OF RHODE ISLAND

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN NAVY 1776.

From a rare print engraved in London.

RECORDS

OF THE

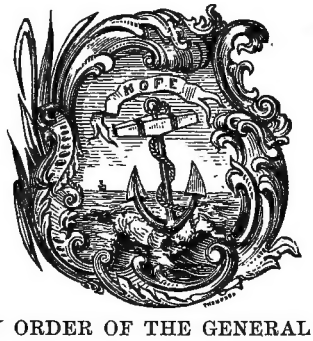
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

IN

NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,
SECRETARY OF STATE.

VOL. VIII.

1776 TO 1779.

PROVIDENCE:
COOKE, JACKSON & CO., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1863.

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PREFACE.

The eighth volume of the Colonial Records embraces but a little more than three years of our history. It commences with the October session of the General Assembly, 1776, and closes with the year 1779. The editor was desirous to close the publication of the work with this volume; but so voluminous are the proceedings of the General Assembly during the revolutionary period, that it has been found impossible. In the year 1777, there were eleven sessions of the General Assembly; in 1778 and 1779, seven each, so that the present volume contains the proceedings of a public nature of twenty-five sessions. The volume is also rich with the correspondence of the period, and includes letters of Washington, Greene, Sullivan and other generals of the revolution.

J. R. B.

Providence, January, 1863.

RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on the last Monday of October, 1776.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

John Collins, Esq.,
Simeon Potter, Esq.,
John Jepson, Esq.,
James Arnold, Jr., Esq.,
Peter Phillips, Esq.,
William Potter, Esq.,
Thomas Church, Esq.

DEPUTIES.

Newport.
Mr. John Wanton,
Mr. John Turner,
Col. George Sears,
Gideon Wanton, Esq.,
Mr. Thomas Freebody,
Col. Joseph Belcher.

Providence.
Mr. John Brown,
Mr. John Smith,
Theodore Foster, Esq.

Warwick.
William Greene, Esq.,
Mr. Jacob Greene,
Charles Holden, Jr., Esq.,
Mr. Thomas Holden.

Westerly.
Maj. Gen. Joshua Babcock,
Col. Joseph Noyes.

North Kingstown.
John Northup, Esq.,
Maj. Sylvester Gardner.

DEPUTIES.

South Kingstown.
Mr. Immanuel Case,
Daniel Rodman, Esq.
East Greenwich.
Job Comstock, Esq.,
Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq.
Jamestown.
Capt. Samuel Carr,
Benjamin Underwood, Esq.
Smithfield.
Daniel Mowry, Jr., Esq.
Scituate.
William West, Esq.,
Mr. Christopher Potter.
Glocester.
Richard Steere, Esq.
Charlestown.
Gideon Hoxsie, Esq.,
Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq.
West Greenwich.
Mr. Samuel Hopkins, Jr.,
Mr. John Kinyon.
Coventry.
Mr. Ephraim Westcoat,
Mr. John Greene.
Exeter.
Col. George Pierce,
Jeffrey Willcox, Esq.
Middletown.
Col. George Irish,
Mr. Nicholas Easton.
Bristol.
Col. Nathaniel Pearce.
Little Compton.
Mr. Perez Richmond,
Mr. Nathaniel Church.
Warren.
Mr. Cromel Child,
Col. Sylvester Child.
Cumberland.
Mr. Elisha Waterman.
Richmond.
Mr. Nathan Kinyon,
Mr. Simeon Clarke, Jr.
Cranston.
Mr. William Field,
Mr. John King, Jr.
Hopkinton.
Mr. John Larkin,
Thomas Wells, Esq.
Johnston.
Caleb Harris, Esq.,
Abraham Belknap, Esq.
North Providence.
Mr. Joseph Olney,
Mr. Benjamin Sheppardson.
Barrington.
Mr. Moses Tyler.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., speaker; Josias Lyndon, Esq., clerk.

Henry Ward, Esq., secretary.
Henry Marchant, Esq., attorney general.
Joseph Clarke, Esq., general treasurer.

JUSTICES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., chief; William Greene, Esq., second; Shearjashub Bourn, Esq., third; Jabez Bowen, Esq., fourth; and Thomas Wells, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR NEWPORT COUNTY.

George Hazard, Esq., chief; John Jepson, Esq., second; John Barker, Esq., third; Thomas Church, Esq., fourth; and Benjamin Underwood, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR PROVIDENCE COUNTY.

Thomas Greene, Esq., chief; Richard Steere, Esq., second; Rufus Hopkins, Esq., third; Jeremiah Whipple, Esq., fourth; and Daniel Mowry, Jr., Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR KINGS COUNTY.

William Potter, Esq., chief; Sylvester Robinson, Esq., second; John Northup, Esq., third; Carder Hazard, Esq., fourth; and Joseph Hoxsie, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR BRISTOL COUNTY.

Nathaniel Fales, Esq., chief; John Child, Esq., second; James Brown, Esq., third; Joseph Reynolds, Esq., fourth; and Josiah Humphreys, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR KENT COUNTY.

Philip Greene, Esq., chief; James Arnold, Jr., Esq., second; Gideon Mumford, Esq., third; John Low, Esq., fourth; Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq., fifth.

SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county.
Jabez Champlin, Esq.
Providence county.
Paul Tew, Esq.
Kings county.
Beriah Brown, Esq.
Bristol county.
Richard Smith, Esq.
Kent county.
Henry Rice, Esq.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

John Foster, Esq., judge of the court erected for the trial of maritime causes, in and throughout the state.

FIELD OFFICERS FOR THE STATE'S BRIGADE, IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Joshua Babcock, Esq., major general of the militia.

Officers of the First Regiment.

Newport county—George Irish, Esq., colonel; George Sears, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Job Almy, 2d, Esq., major.

Providence county—Jabez Bowen, Esq., colonel; Amos Atwell, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Ebenezer Thompson, Esq., major.

Kings county—Jos. Noyes, Esq., colonel; Jesse Champlin, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Jesse Maxson, Esq., major.

Bristol county—Nath'l Martin, Esq., colonel; Thos. Gray, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Benjamin Bosworth, Esq., major.

Kent county—John Waterman, Esq., colonel; John Low, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., major.

Officers of the Second Regiment.

Newport county—John Cooke, Esq., colonel; David Hilyard, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Pardon Gray, Esq., major.

Providence county—Chad Brown, Esq., colonel; Elisha Mowry, Jr., Esq., lieutenant colonel; John Fiske, Esq., major.

Kings county—Robert Brown, Esq., colonel; George Pierce, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Charles Dyer, Esq., major.

Kent county—Nathaniel Brown, Esq., colonel; Archibald Kasson, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Yelverton Waite, Esq., major.

Officers of the Third Regiment.

Providence county—William West, Esq., colonel; John Colwell, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Joseph Knight, Esq., major.

It is voted and resolved, that the butter now stored in Providence, in the hands of Capt. John Updike, James Black and Arthur Fenner, Jr., belonging to Samuel Starbuck, of Nantucket, be delivered to said Starbuck; and that the town of Providence use their best endeavors to discover the perpetrators of the damages done to the said Starbuck's vessel, in order that they may be brought to justice.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Rouse J. Helme be, and hereby is, appointed to assist the secretary in drawing up the acts and orders of the General Assembly, for the press, and procure them to be printed; and that he give his constant attendance, and perform the business as soon as possible.

Whereas, the captains and subaltern officers, belonging to the brigade raised by this state preferred their petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that, animated with an ardent desire of serving the state of Rhode Island, they have actually been at considerable cost and expense, in raising soldiers to serve in defence of said state; and although pecuniary views were not the leading motives which induced them to engage with such readiness and zeal, in the cause of American freedom, yet they humbly conceive themselves to be entitled to some compensation for their labor, cost and expense; but so far from meeting with the deserved encouragement, they have

not had the satisfaction of being paid according to the provision made by the Most Honorable the Continental Congress; which, since they have been put upon the Continental establishment, and bear Continental commissions, they think themselves justly entitled to; and more especially, as they are liable, whenever called upon, to march to the assistance of any of the United States; and thereupon prayed this Assembly, that they might be entitled to, and receive the same pay and allowance as is made to officers of equal rank in the service of the United States:

And this Assembly taking into consideration the subject matter in the said petition contained, and having maturely considered the same,—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that the act of Assembly made and passed at their session in October, A. D. 1775, allowing the inhabitants of Nantucket to purchase and ship any particular articles of provision and necessaries from any town in this state, upon the conditions in said act mentioned, be, and the same is hereby, repealed, and rendered null and void, for the future.

In Council, was read the return of Andrew Boyd, clerk of the company of Kentish Guards, choosing Christopher Greene, of Warwick, son of Nathaniel, second lieutenant of said company, in the room of Thomas Holden, who refused; which being considered by the Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said choice be, and the same is hereby, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that each and every member of the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, appointed and fully empowered, to employ, and fully empower, suitable persons to apprehehend all such persons as have already, or shall hereafter desert from the Rhode Island brigade, and to return all such deserters to the said brigade; and that all such persons, as shall be employed, as aforesaid, are hereby

empowered to demand and take sufficient aid to perform what they shall be employed to do, as aforesaid.

That the said committee of safety pay and discharge all such charges as shall arise in the above mentioned affair.

And that the said committee be likewise empowered to take up, and apprehend all deserters from the Continental troops, who shall come within this state.

And it is further voted and resolved, that every captain of any private vessel of war, or trading vessel, within this state, who shall take on board and carry off any such deserter, shall be subject to and pay a fine of £50, lawful money, to and for the use of this state, for each and every deserter he shall so carry off; to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record, within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the captain of Fort Liberty be under the command of the commander-in-chief of the two regiments stationed upon Rhode Island.

It is voted and resolved, that, of the two colonels who command the two new regiments lately raised and stationed on Rhode Island, he who has the eldest commission shall take the command.

Whereas, Mr. Ichabod Potter preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that, in the year 1775, he entertained a large number of the troops belonging to this state, stationed on Rhode Island, by order of the commanding officer, and charged ninepence per meal; and that the committee, who audited and adjusted the accounts, allowed him but sixpence per meal; a sum by no means adequate; and whereby he is greatly injured, and remains a sufferer, unless this Assembly will be pleased to make him the further allowance whereof he hath been so deprived; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the petitioner be allowed and paid threepence per meal, over and above what he has already received, for every meal he supplied to the soldiers of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Brown be, and he is hereby, appointed to inquire into the affair of the prizes, taken by the two row galleys in the harbor of Newport, and see that the government's part of the prizes be paid into the general treasury.

And that this state give up their right to Capt. Grimes, of the galley Spitfire, and the crew thereof, in the three anchors and cables by them taken up in the harbor of Newport, to be divided amongst them, agreeably to the rules provided in such cases; and that they apply to Col. Daniel Tillinghast, for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith be, and he is hereby, appointed to sell, at public vendue, all the effects of George Rome and Charles Dudley, in the possession of this state, and receive the money arising thereby, and pay the same into the general treasury; excepting the screws and bars, and the effects in Mr. Nathan Miller's hands.

It is voted and resolved, that Josias Lyndon, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to sell, at public vendue, all the effects of Charles Dudley, in the hands of Mr. Nathan Miller, and render an account thereof, to the next session of Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that two regiments be immediately raised by this state, agreeably to the requisition of the Continental Congress.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following gentlemen as officers in the two battalions or regiments, to be raised by this state, agreeably to requisition of Congress:

Officers chosen for the First Battalion.

Field officers—James Mitchell Varnum, Esq., colonel; Adam Comstock, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Henry Sherburne, Esq., major.

Captains—Ebenezer Flagg, Silas Talbot, Thomas Cole, John Singer Dexter, Simeon Martin, Jonathan Wallen.

First lieutenants—Joseph Arnold, William Belcher, Timo-

thy Lock, Samuel Bissell, Wilson Rawson, William Potter, John Handy, Thomas Noyes.

Second lieutenants—Ichabod Prentice, John Chapman, John Remington.

Ensigns—Zephaniah Brown.

Staff officers—Quartermaster, Clarke Brown.

Officers chosen for the Second Battalion.

Field officers—Daniel Hitchcock, Esq., colonel; Israel Angell, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Christopher Smith, Esq., major.

Captains—Jeremiah Olney, Wm. Tew, Coggeshall Olney, Ephraim Bowen, William Bradford, Jr., John Carr, Abimelech Riggs.

First lieutenants—Stephen Olney, William Allen, William Littlefield, Gilbert Grant, Joseph Whitmarsh, Daniel Pearce, Amos Crandall, Micah Moulton.

Second lieutenants—Thomas Hughes, Duty Jerrald.

Ensigns—Ebenezer West, Holliman Potter, Thomas Waterman, Oliver Jenckes, Richard Hunniwell.

Staff officers—Quartermaster, Cyprian Sterry.

Both houses being still in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

Commissioners, Surgeons, &c., chosen.

Joseph Clarke, Esq., appointed commissioner of the loan office, for this state.

Stephen Mumford, of East Greenwich, is appointed commissary of prisoners of war, within this state, agreeably to requisition of Congress.

Hon. William Bradford, Esq., Jonathan Arnold and Wm. Bowen, physicians and surgeons, are appointed examiners of surgeons and surgeons' mates, for the army and navy.

It is voted and resolved, that all those suspected persons, who by order of Assembly were removed from the town of Newport, into other towns in this state, have liberty to re-

turn to their own homes, as soon as they please; first paying all the charges that have arisen from the time of their removal until their return; except Christopher Hargill, who not being able to pay the charge at present, is to give his note therefor.

Whereas, Messrs. Samuel Fowler and Gideon Wanton laid before this Assembly the following report and account, to wit:

Report of the Committee relative to Damages, &c.

Newport, October 24, 1776.

We, the subscribers, being, by the Honorable General Assembly, appointed a committee, at the last June session, to ascertain the damages that Joseph Crandall has sustained, by being kept out of his house, the same being improved by the government, have, agreeably to said appointment, viewed the premises; and it is our opinion, that he ought to be allowed $20, yearly, for the time it shall be improved.

SAMUEL FOWLER,
GIDEON WANTON.

Whereas, Mr. Jonathan Niles presented unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the state, for the time, horse-hire and expenses of himself and aid, in taking up, conveying to Providence and committing to jail, Richard Beal, Thomas Vernon and John Nicoll, in consquence of their having broken their parole; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £2, lawful money, be paid to the said Jonathan Niles, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety provide clothing and other necessaries, for the two battalions to be immediately raised by this state; that His Honor the Governor be requested to supply the said committee with cloth, out of the cargo of the prize ship lately brought into Providence, for the purpose, aforesaid; and that the said committee take all the arms belonging to the state, and get them repaired in the several counties.

It is voted and resolved, that the thanks of this Assembly

be given to the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., for his good services, as a delegate for this state, in the Continental Congress; and that he be requested to attend the business of Congress as soon as he can conveniently leave his family.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Caleb Harris be chosen inspector of gunpowder; and that Messrs. Daniel Mowry, John Brown, Daniel Rodman, David Harris and Rouse J. Helme be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill to be passed into an act, regulating inspecting the powder, receiving the same, &c.

And that they also prepare a bill, laying a penalty for counterfeiting the bills or notes of the Continental loan office.

And also draught a letter to be sent to His Excellency General Washington, respecting the filling the offices of the two battalions to be immediately raised in this state.

In Council was read the return of the names of the officers chosen for the company of Scituate Hunters, viz.:

Joseph Kimball, captain; Gideon Cornell, first lieutenant; Jonathan Smith, second lieutenant; Bertram Rounds, ensign.

Which being considered by the Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that the soldiers enlisted in Col. Cooke's regiment, be allowed wages and billeting, from the time of their enlistment; and also the charges of marching to Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that Stephen Wigneron be chosen surgeon and Jonathan Pierce armorer, of Col. John Cooke's regiment.

It is voted and resolved, that the town of Newport provide blankets for the soldiers raised by said town, as their part of Col. Cooke's regiment, in six days from the rising of this Assembly, or pay the fine, according to law.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joseph Stanton and John Northup deliver to the county of Providence the sur-

plusage of salt in their hands; the said county of Providence paying the charge of transportation.

It is voted and resolved, that Samuel Chace, Esq., notary public for the county of Providence, be forthwith brought before this Assembly, to answer for his conduct in making protests as notary public, as aforesaid, against the captors of certain vessels and their cargoes, and the condemnation of the same, agreeably to the resolves of Congress and laws of this state.

And it is further resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kings county, or his lawful deputy, be, and he is hereby, directed to apprehend the said Samuel Chace, and to call on the secretary and receive of him the original act of Assembly, establishing a court for the trial of prize causes within this state, and a copy of the protests made before him, by any of the persons that have been captured, and brought into this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the last Thursday of this instant, November, be observed as a day of public fasting and prayer; and that all servile labor, recreation and sports of all kinds, be forbidden to be used within this state on said day; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to issue a proclamation, accordingly.

Whereas, the committee appointed to sign the last emission of lawful money bills, presented unto this Assembly the following report and account, to wit:

Report of the Committee, appointed by the General Assembly to sign the Lawful Money Bills of Credit.

To the Honorable General Assembly of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, to be holden at South Kingstown, on the last Monday in October, A. D. 1776.

In pursuance of an act passed at the session held in September last, for emitting the the sum of $66,670, we, the subscribers, have signed the bills ordered to be emitted, consisting of the following denominations, to wit:

700	bills of thirty dollars each, is	$21,000
600	" " twenty " "	12,000
667	" " ten " "	6,670
600	" " eight " "	4,800

600	bills of seven dollars each, is	£4,200
600	" " six " "	3,600
600	" " five " "	3,000
600	" " four " "	2,400
600	" " three " "	1,800
600	" " two " "	1,200
2,000	" " one " "	2,000
4,000	" " half " "	2,000
4,000	" " one-quarter dollar each, is	2,000
4,000	" " one-eighth " "	500
8,000	" " one-sixteenth " "	500
		$66,670

All which, we have delivered unto the general treasurer, and taken his receipt therefor. We have also registered the order and manner of signing the same, in the eighth book of the Public Records, in the secretary's office.

We submit this report, and are Your Honors' most humble servants,

JOHN G. WANTON, JAMES CONGDON, 3D,
THOMAS GREENE, JOSEPH CLARKE,
JOHN DEXTER, JONATHAN J. HASZARD.

Whereas, James Smith, James Stable and Henry Barnes preferred their petition to this Assembly, setting forth that with the deepest concern they find themselves, after having been captured and brought into this state, unhappily considered as enemies to the rights, liberties and privileges of America, and detained as prisoners; that having neither in thought, word or deed, injured the cause of liberty, or joined, adopted or approved of, the present measures, they humbly conceive and pray that the wonted justice, mercy and humanity of this Assembly, will be extended to them, their fellow-captured captains, mates, passengers and apprentices, in permitting them to purchase, fit and victual a ship to proceed to England, to their friends, families and connexions; they giving their most sacred parole that they will not, directly nor indirectly, aid, assist, counsel or advise, against this or any other of the United States of America; which petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, granted; that the petitioners have liberty of purchasing a suitable vessel, not exceeding the burthen of one hundred and fifty tons, for transporting themselves to Great Britain; and to purchase the necessary provisions and stores for the

voyage, under the inspection of Messrs. John Jenckes, John Wanton and John Brown; and to proceed to any part of this state, to purchase the same, under the inspection, aforesaid.

And that two of the captains and five mates, who have last arrived within this state, be detained, to exchange for that number of masters and mates belonging to the United States of America, who are now prisoners on board the British ship of war the Syren, commanded by Capt. Tobias Furneaux.

Whereas, Mr. John Waite exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the state, for cutting and engraving two setts of escutcheons, for the backs and borders of the lawful money bills ordered to be printed; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that £7, lawful money, thereof, and no more, be allowed; and that said sum be paid the said John Waite, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., be appointed paymaster to the regiment under the command of Col. John Cooke; and that, upon the several captains making out their pay-rolls, certified by the colonel, he pay the wages monthly.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be requested to exchange two of the captains and five mates, who were last brought into this state, and twenty-four seamen, for the two captains, five mates and twenty-four seamen, proposed to be exchanged by Capt. Furneaux, of the Syren British ship of war.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Sands, Edward Sands, Jr. and Simon Ray Littlefield, have liberty to bring any provisions, hides or other articles, from the island of Block Island, to any part of this state; and to carry on said island, leather, cloth, or such other necessaries as they may stand in need of, for their own consumption; and that Godfrey Trim and John Rose, Jr., be employed by them as boatmen, in transporting said articles, to and from said island; any law to the contrary hereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., Dr. Stephen Wigneron and Thomas Church, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to procure a suitable house, on Rhode Island, for a hospital for the troops stationed on said island; and that the sick in the house at present improved as a hospital, be immediately removed, and the said house be cleansed as soon as possible.

Whereas, Mr. Thomas Hazard Potter presented unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the state, for his time, horse-hire and expenses, in carrying a letter from South Kingstown to Providence, to the Governor and Committee appointed to act in the recess of the Assembly, respecting Capt. Wallace's landing at Point Judith; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £1 16*s.*, lawful money, be paid unto the said Thomas Hazard Potter, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that $20 be allowed by this state, as an additional bounty to each of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who shall enlist to serve during the war.

Whereas, Mr. Edward Brickwood preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that on his passage from Bermuda to Antigua and London, in the brig Fanny, he was captured and brought into this port; that he was bound to England to transact some particular business, and intended returning immediately to Bermuda or Antigua, where he hath an interest; and that he is essentially suffering in his concerns, by the misfortune of being prevented attending thereto, as well as prosecuting his intended voyage to Great Britain; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him permission to return to his business, and prosecute his intended voyage to Great Britain, by way of France, Holland, Bermuda, or the West Indies, with his apparel, &c.; and the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, and Mr. John Jenckes, draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £600, lawful money, towards fitting out a vessel, ordered by this General Assembly, to fetch salt for the use of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that John Cole and Jonathan Arnold, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to revise the act establishing a maritime court, for the trial of prize causes, within this state; and that they make report of the same, to this Assembly, at the next session.

Whereas, Richard Aylsworth, Stephen Spencer, Christopher Bentley and Abel Shearman, preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that on the 14th day of February last past, they were captured on board the sloop Dolphin, in the service of this state, by the Portland man of war, and carried to Antigua; from whence they obtained a passage to Nova Scotia, and from thence home to East Greenwich; which was attended with great cost and charges, which they have been obliged, since their return, to re-pay by their daily labor, and whereby their families are deprived of their necessary support; and thereupon besought this Assembly to commiserate their distressed situation, and order their wages and expenses to be paid them.

[The total amount allowed, was £55 19*s.* 7*d.*]

An Act for the inspection of gunpowder, manufactured within this state.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that if any person or persons, within this state, shall vend or expose to sale any gunpowder, manufactured within the same, unless said gunpowder be packed in a good dry cask, marked with the two first letters of the manufacturer's name, and hath been examined and approved by the inspector of gunpowder, for said state, and by him marked with the letters **U. S. A.,** and such other marks as are necessary to distinguish the several sorts of gunpowder; the person or persons so offending, shall forfeit and

pay £6, lawful money, for every cask so exposed to sale; to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, upon conviction before any court of record within this state; which forfeiture, shall one moiety thereof be given to the informer, and the other be paid into the general treasury of this state.

And be it further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that the said inspector be paid out of the general treasury ninepence, lawful money, for every cask so marked and inspected by him.

An Act for punishing persons counterfeiting the bills or notes of either of the Continental loan offices, within the United States of America.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that if any person or persons within this state, shall counterfeit the bills or notes of either of the Continental loan offices, within the United States of America, or utter or pass the same, knowing them to be such, and be thereof duly convicted, shall suffer the pains of death.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., be, and he is hereby, chosen a delegate to represent this state in the Continental Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that the lot on which the old court house, in the county of Kings county, stands, and the said house, be sold by the sheriff of said county, at public vendue, to the highest bidder, on the 2d day of November next, at two o'clock, in the afternoon; and that the general treasurer give a warranty deed of the same, to the purchaser, in behalf of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Jesse Burdick be appointed captain; Weight Burdick, lieutenant; and Phineas Maxson, ensign, of the third company of militia, in the town of Hopkinton.

It is voted and resolved, that the report of the committee who were appointed to estimate the damages done by the soldiers, to the house of Capt. Joshua Ingraham, be ac-

cepted; and that the further sum of £8 2*s.*, lawful money, be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury, to the said Joshua Ingraham.

Whereas, the commissions for private vessels of war, and letters of marque, sent by Congress, for the use of the inhabitants of this state, are all made use of; and commissions will be wanted for private vessels of war, and letters of marque, now fitting out from this state, before they can be procured from Congress;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be requested to grant commissions to any vessels fitted out, as aforesaid, until commissions can be procured from Congress; and that instructions be given, and bond taken in the secretary's office, agreeably to the resolutions of the Honorable the Continental Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Jonathan Haszard be, and he is hereby, appointed paymaster to the first battalion, and that Charles Holden, Esq., be paymaster to the second battalion, ordered to be raised by this Assembly, to serve during the war.

It is voted and resolved, that each of the paymasters be furnished by the general treasurer of this state, with $10,000, to pay the bounty allowed by this state, to the troops that shall enlist to serve during the war; and that they, each of them, give bond, with sufficient sureties, to the general treasurer, in the sum of $20,000.

It is voted and resolved, that the several committees of safety be, and they are hereby, empowered to enlist men in their respective counties in this state, to serve during the war; and that they pay them the bounty allowed by Congress and this state.

It is voted and resolved, that a committee be appointed to inquire into the state of all guns which are claimed by soldiers, and who have received no pay for the same, which are now in use in the army, or have been detained from them, and make report to this Assembly, at the next session; and that Peter Phillips, Esq., with the former commit-

tee of safety, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee for that purpose; and that they advertise in the public newspapers, in this state, the time and place of meeting they shall appoint for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Jonathan Haszard and Charles Holden, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed to proceed, with the greatest despatch, to His Excellency General Washington, with a letter to him from this state, and the commissions for the officers appointed by this Assembly; and that they perform the same without any expense to the state.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Messrs. John Collins, John Brown, Job Comstock and Daniel Rodman, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to take into consideration the circumstances of the several towns in this state, and make report to this Assembly at the next session, how much the proportion each town, under the present state of affairs, ought in justice to differ from the proportion of the last estimate, either in the increase of the ratables or diminution thereof, in case a tax should be then voted.

It is voted and resolved, that the form of the enlistment for the soldiers in the two battalions now ordered to be raised, be as follows, viz.:

Form of Enlistment for the Soldiers.

"I, the subscriber, hereby solemnly engage and enlist myself, as a soldier, in the battalions of the state of Rhode Island, &c., in the service of the United States of America, and in the pay of the said United States, from the day of my enlistment, for and during the present war with Great Britain, unless sooner discharged by the General Congress of said United States; and I hereby promise to submit myself to all the orders and regulations of the army of the United States of America; and faithfully to observe and

obey all such orders, as I shall receive, from time to time, from my officers."

It is voted and resolved, that the bounty on saltpetre be continued until the 1st day of May next.

That Peter Turner be inspector of saltpetre for the county of Bristol; and that the inspectors, heretofore appointed, continue in their said offices, until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the judge of the court erected for the trial of maritime causes, receive only £6, for the condemnation of any vessel or cargo, brought within this state; any law to the contrary hereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

Resolved, that those town officers, within the several towns in this state, who have neglected to subscribe the test, as by a law of this state heretofore provided, be, and they are hereby, disqualified from serving in their respective offices in future; and that the several towns within this state be, and they are hereby, empowered and enjoined to call town meetings, as soon as may be, for the purpose of electing persons to such offices as are become vacant by the aforesaid disqualification.

And it is further resolved, that this resolve be printed, as soon as may be, in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, the Deputy Governor, and members of the General Council, or any five of them, together with the deputies belonging to the respective towns in this state, or any six of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to act and transact all such business as the exigency of public affairs, during the recess of the Assembly may require; and to advise His Honor therein; and that all orders by them made and issued, and all other their transactions, be laid before this Assembly at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the draught of a letter to His Excellency General Washington, laid before this Assembly, by the committee appointed for that purpose, be, and the same is hereby, approved; and that a fair copy be made and signed by His Honor the Governor, and forwarded to His Excellency, by Messrs. Hazard and Holden.*

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, John Cole and Jonathan Arnold, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draught an act, regulating the loan office, within this state; and that they immediately take bonds of Joseph Clarke, Esq., keeper of said office, in the sum of £20,000, with sufficient sureties, and lodge the same in the secretary's office; and that the said Joseph immediately after his giving bond, as aforesaid, receive any moneys that may be brought him into his office, agreeably to the resolves of Congress.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury:

Bills to be Paid.

	£ s. d.
Joseph Brown, for attendance upon the committee appointed to act in the recess of the General Assembly	7 00 00
John Collins, for his expenses in going to, and returning from, Philadelphia, on public business	70 10 00
Holderby Langford, for measuring a quantity of salt, delivered for the use of several towns in the state	18 03
Jonathan Niles, for expenses in committing certain persons to jail who had broken their parole	2 00 00
Mrs. Mary Dyer, for billeting six soldiers	3 00 00
The committee who signed certain lawful money bills, emitted by the state.	50 00 00
Beriah Brown, for expenses for warning the members of the General Assembly to meet at several sessions of the Assembly	43 05 00
Thomas Hazard Potter, for expenses in carrying a letter from South Kingstown, to the Governor, &c	1 16 00
John Banister, for quartering soldiers, &c.	21 00 00
Daniel Mowry, Jr., for expenses in taking an account of inhabitants in the town of Smithfield	3 12 00
James Tew, for boarding and prison fees of a number of prisoners of war	15 04 08
Caleb Boss, for expenses in carying several orders and resolutions of the general committee, to Col. Noyes, and to sundry towns in Kings county	1 16 00
John Carter, for printing and publishing sundry acts of Assembly, &c.	29 16 00

* See letter accompanying, November 6, 1776.

Cromel Child for cash paid for towing a scow for the service of the state, from Rhode Island to Warren 1 10 10
Tilley M. Olney, for expenses in warning Jonathan Randall, to attend the meeting of the General Assembly 12 00
Richard Smith, for notifying the town clerks and colonel of militia, in the county of Bristol, &c.; and for warning the members of the Assembly. 13 00
Jeremiah Sheffield, for going express to Providence, &c. 2 11 00
Jonathan J. Haszard, for expenses in going to the Jerseys on public business, 17 19 06
William Case Clarke, for expenses in going express to Jonathan Randall and John Sayles, Jr., Esqs., to attend the meeting of the General Assembly, 2 17 00
James Teft, Jr., and Solomon Teft, for six days' attendance on the General Assembly 2 02 00
Ebenezer Teft, for attendance on the General Assembly, and sundry services rendered 2 12 00
Nathan Bowen, for his loss, on Prudence Island, by the enemy, of a scow, oars and plank 17 08 04
Joshua Ingraham, for rent of house and stores occupied by troops in the service of the state 5 00 00
James Tew, for the maintenance and prison fees of sundry prisoners of war, 10 18 03
Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq., for expenses to, and from, New York, on public business 19 09 07
Thomas Freebody, for cash advanced, &c. 2 03 00
Joshua Babcock, for expenses to and from New York, on public business .. 21 06 03
Jonathan J. Haszard, for expenses in taking an account of the number of inhabitants in the town of Charlestown 2 14 00
Beriah Brown, for expenses in bringing Samuel Chace, Esq., before the General Assembly 2 00 00
William Potter, for cash advanced, and materials provided for building the court house in Kings county 231 09 06
Charles Holden, Jr., for expenses in numbering the inhabitants of the town of Warwick 2 14 00
Nathaniel Mumford, for expenses in taking an account of cannon, and for attendance on the General Assembly 13 06 08
Jonathan Hazard, for the use of a room in his house, to the members of the upper house of the General Assembly 1 10 00
Simeon Potter, for expenses in fitting sloop, furnishing cartridge-paper, &c., for the government 11 17 06

God save the United States of America.

Lieut. Adam Comstock to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, Portsmouth,
September 4th, 1776. 7 o'clock, P. M.

Sir—I understand the General Assembly has ordered Col. Lippitt's regiment to Long Island, and I have given the necessary preparatory orders to my detachment, accordingly. But, sir, there are many men in said regiment, that are very bare of clothes, having neither shoes nor stockings to wear; and I find much grumbling among them on the occasion.

Now, sir, I would humbly recommend to Your Honor, and to the Honorable General Assembly's consideration, that the same number of troops ordered, might be detached from both regiments that are now well clothed and shod, and fit for said march, who I believe would go with a good resolution; and if is afterwards found necessary, to send off the remainder. There would be time to equip them fit for such a march.

I thought proper to communicate my sentiments on this matter, to Your Honor, to be laid before before the General Assembly, if Your Honor thinks fit.

As to my own part, I am fully ready to march to any part of the continent, that shall be thought best for the public good; and shall cheerfully observe and obey the former, or any other orders that the General Aseembly shall give.

You will please to pardon my writing that which might come more properly from headquarters, at Newport, when you consider that I am much nearer Providence than they are, and sending there first, would tend to procastinate and delay our march.

I have the honor to be, with unfeigned respect,
Your Honor's most obedient, and most humble servant,
ADAM COMSTOCK, Lieut.

To the Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the state of Rhode Island.

Jeremiah Powell, of Massachusetts, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Watertown, September 17th, 1776.

Sir:—We have your letter of the 13th inst.,* and would now inform you, that in consequence of orders issued by this Court, some days since, the most vigorous exertions are now making to detach as large a proportion of the militia of this state as it's supposed can possibly be spared, to march to the aid of the army at New York, with the utmost expedition.

Since the issuing these orders, we have been requested by the Honorable Congress to send one regiment of our militia to Rhode Island, to supply the place of one of the Continental regiments ordered from thence. Whereupon, that part of our militia to be raised in the counties of Plymouth and Barnstable, were destined to Rhode Island, and Major General Warren was commanded to give the necessary order therefor; but as this regiment is to take the charge of a number of whale-boats as far as Rhode Island, agreeably to Governor Trumbull's proposal, in a letter now come to hand, their arrival with you, may be in some measure delayed; but you may be assured that every means will be used to get them there, as soon as possible.

In the name, and in behalf of the General Assembly,
I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,
JEREMIAH POWELL, President.

To the Hon. William Bradford, Esq.

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* This letter is found on page 622, Vol. VII., Rhode Island Colonial Records.

Gen. Nathaniel Greene to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Camp at Harlem Heights, 17th Sept. 1776.

Sir:—I suppose you have heard of the retreat from Long Island, and the evacuation of New York. The retreats were both judicious and necessary, our numbers being very insufficient to hold such an extent of ground. His Excellency had proposed to evacuate the city and suburbs of New York, some time before the enemy made their last landing; and had the quartermaster general been able to furnish the necessary wagons to remove the stores and baggage, the retreat would have been affected in good order, had the enemy delayed their landing twenty-four hours longer.

Almost all the old standing regiment was drawn out of the city, in order to oppose the enemy at Hell Gate, where they made an appearance of a very large body of troops, and movements as if they intended a landing.

We made a miserable, disorderly retreat from New York, owing to the disorderly conduct of the militia, who ran at the appearance of the enemy's advance guard. This was Gen. Fellows's brigade; they struck a panic into the troops in the rear, and Fellows and Parsons's whole brigade ran away from about fifty men, and left His Excellency on the ground within eighty yards of the enemy; so vexed at the infamous conduct of the troops, that he sought death rather than life. The retreat was on the 14th of this instant, from New York; most of the troops got off; but we lost a prodigious deal of baggage and stores.

On the 15th, we had a skirmish at Harlem Heights. A party of about a thousand came and attacked our advance post; they met with a very different kind of reception from what they did the day before. The fire continued about an hour, and the enemy retreated; our people pursued them; and by the spirited conduct of Gen. Putnam and Col. Read, the adjutant general, our people advanced upon the plain ground, without cover, and attacked them, and drove them back. His Excellency sent and ordered a timely retreat to our advance post; for he discovered, or concluded the enemy would send a large reinforcement, as their main body lay near by.

I was sick when the army retreated from Long Island; which, by the by, was the best effected retreat, I ever read or heard of, considering the difficulty of the retreat. The army now remains quiet, but expect an attack every day. Col. Varnum and Col. Hitchcock's regiments were in the last action, and behaved nobly; but neither of the colonels was with them; both being absent; one sick, the other taking care of the sick. Time won't permit me to say much more, as I am wanted to go into the Jerseys.

I had the honor of seeing and conversing with your committee. I think, and so does His Excellency, that the operations of the campaign have no effect upon you; as it will be impossible for the enemy to detach any part of the army, while our army is able to make any stand. I would not evacuate one foot of ground; as it will tend to encourage the enemy, and dispirit our people. I am sure the government is safe, and will remain so, unless the enemy can ruin this army. This is their grand object; and every means will be exerted to effect it. They will not have opportunity and strength sufficient to molest you. I have not time to add one word more.

I am, with all due respect,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

N. GREENE,

To Governor Cooke,

The Governor of Rhode Island to General Washington.

State of Rhode Island, &c.,
Bristol, September 23d, 1776.

Sir :—Having seen in the public papers that Your Excellency and the British admiral have agreed upon an exchange of prisoners in the naval department, I beg leave to apply to you in behalf of a mate of a vessel, and four seamen, all belonging to Warwick, in this state ; some of whom are connected with very respectable families. They were all taken in the merchant's service, and are prisoners on board one of the ships of war, now in the Sound.

We have a mate of a merchant ship, and four seamen, who were taken in a transport, with part of one of the Highland regiments, to give for them.

I request Your Excellency's directions, as soon as may be, whether we shall send the prisoners directly to you, or how shall I proceed to procure the exchange; which will very much oblige many worthy people here.

I am, with great esteem and respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient, and most humble servant,
[WILLIAM BRADFORD, Dep. Gov.]

To His Excellency General Washington.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

Philadelphia, September 24th, 1776.

Gentlemen :—You will perceive by the enclosed resolves, which I have the honor to forward to you, in obedience to the commands of Congress, that they have come to a determination to augment our army, and to engage the troops to serve during the continuance of the war. As an inducement to enlist on these terms, the Congress have agreed to give, besides a bounty of $20, a hundred acres of land to each soldier ; and in case he should fall in battle, they have resolved that his children or other representatives, shall succeed to such land.

The many ill consequences arising from a short and limited enlistment of troops, are too obvious to be mentioned. In general, give me leave to observe, that to make men well acquainted with the duties of a soldier, requires time ; and to bring them under proper subordination and discipline, not only requires time, but has always been a work of much difficulty. We have had frequent experience, that men of a few days standing, will not look forward ; but, as the time of their discharge approaches, grow careless of their arms, ammunition, &c., and impatient of all restraint. The consequence of which is, the latter part of the time for which the soldier was engaged, is spent in undoing, what the greatest pains had been taken to inculcate at first. Need I add to this, that the fall of the late General Montgomery, before Quebec, is undoubtedly to be ascribed to the limited time for which the troops were engaged, whose impatience to return home, compelled him to make the attack, contrary to the convictions of his own judgment.

This fact alone, furnishes a striking argument of the danger and impropriety of sending troops into the field, under any restriction as to the time of their enlistment. The noblest enterprize may be left unfinished by troops in such a predicament, or abandoned at the very moment success must have crowned the attempt.

The heavy and enormous expense consequent upon calling forth the militia, the delay attending their motions, and the difficulty of keeping them in camp, render it

extremely improper to place our whole dependence on them. Experience hath uniformly convinced us of this; some of the militia having actually deserted the camp at the very moment their services were most wanted. In the meantime, the strength of the British army which is great, is rendered much more formidable by the superior order and regularity which prevail in it.

Under these circumstances, and in this situation of our affairs, it is evident that the only means left us of preserving our liberties, is the measure which the Congress have now adopted, and which I am ordered most earnestly to recommend to you to carry into immediate effect.

Without a well disciplined army, we can never expect success against veteran troops; and it is totally impossible we should ever have a well disciplined army, unless our troops are engaged to serve during the war.

To attain, therefore, this most desirable end, I am to request you will at once, and without a moment's delay, bend all your attention to raise your quota of the American army. The times call for the greatest dispatch and vigor of conduct. When the bloody standard of tyranny is erected in a land of liberty, no good man, no friend of his country, can possibly remain an inactive spectator of her fall. Display therefore, I most ardently entreat you, that virtue which alone can save her on this occasion. Let us convince our enemies, that as we entered into the present contest to defend our liberties, so we are resolved, with the firmest reliance on Heaven for the justice of our cause, never to relinquish it, but rather to perish in the ruins of it. If we do but remain firm; if we are undismayed at the little shocks of fortune, and are determined at all hazards, that we will be free, I am persuaded, under the gracious smiles of Providence, assisted by our own most strenuous endeavors, we shall finally succeed, agreeably to our wishes, and thereby establish the independence, the happiness, and the glory of the United States of America.

As the troops now in service, belonging to the several states, will be considered as part of their quota in the American army, you will please to take such steps as you judge necsssary, to ascertain what number of troops, as well as what officers, will engage to serve during the war.

I send by this express blank commissions, to be filled with such as you shall please to appoint. I also forward a number of the rules and articles of war, as altered by Congress, and just published.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Honorable the Assembly of the state of Rhode Island.

Resolves of Congress, appointing a Committee to provide for the purchase of Blankets, Clothing, &c., for the Soldiers.

In Congress, September 25th, 1776.

Resolved, that a committee of Congress, consisting of one delegate from each state, be appointed with authority to employ proper persons to purchase in their respective states a sufficient number of blankets and woolens fit for soldiers' clothes; and that they take the most effectual and speedy methods for getting such woolens made up and distributed among the regular Continental army in such proportion as will best promote the public service; and that they also purchase all other necessary clothing for the soldiers, in such proportion as they judge, upon the best information, will be wanted; and that the said committee be authorized to draw on the president of Congress for the sums necessary to execute their business; they to be accountable for the amount of their draughts and disbursements.

The committee are Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Paine, Mr. Ellery, Mr. Williams, Mr. Floyd, Mr. Stockton, Mr. Ross, Mr. McKean, Mr. Middleton, and Mr. Hall.

October 10. Members added—Mr. Witherspoon, Mr. Stone and Mr. Penn.

In Congress, September 25th, 1776.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the General Assemblies and Conventions of the United States, to forward to headquarters the clothing, blankets and necessaries, which they may have provided in consequence of the resolution of Congress of the 19th of June last, drawing on the president for the cost and conveyance thereof; in which it is hoped the utmost diligence and expedition will be used, that those who expose themselves to dangers in defending and protecting their fellow citizens, may suffer as little as possible from inclement seasons.

(Extract from the minutes.) CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'ry.

General Washington to the Deputy Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, Heights of Harlem,
September 29th, 1776.

Sir:—I have been honored with your two favors of the 14th and 23d inst., and am to return you my thanks for the measures you have taken to forward the two Continental battalions from your state.

In respect to the exchange of the persons you mention, I apprehend it cannot be executed, till a general one takes place. This I am trying to carry into execution as well in the naval as the land service; and therefore must request the favor of your state to make out and transmit me a return as soon as possible, of all Continental prisoners in their hands; distinguishing the names and ranks of the commissioned and staff officers, and the corps to which they belong; and the number of non-commissioned and privates, observing the same rule in regard to those in the sea service.

It will be well to have the whole collected at one or two convenient places, in order that they may be sent forward as soon as the plan is properly digested, of which I shall advise you, as soon as I obtain the return.

I have written to the other eastern states upon the same subject; and to me it appears that the prisoners with you, had better join those in Connecticut, that they may come together. I would recommend your writing to Governor Trumbull, for information, where their prisoners are to be assembled, and for his sentiment in this instance. It also seems advisable they should come by water, rather than by land; but of this, you will have due notice, as I mean to settle upon some regular mode with the admiral and General Howe, against the time I am furnished with the returns by the states.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

To the Deputy Governor of Rhode Island.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

Philadelphia, October 2, 1776.

Gentlemen:—The many and just complaints of the insufficiency of the surgeons and their mates, to discharge their duty in a proper manner, has induced Congress to pass the enclosed resolves, recommending it to the several states to appoint some skillful

physicians and examiners, without whose approbation, no surgeon or surgeon's mate shall receive a commission, either in the army or navy.

The Congress being at present deeply engaged in matters of the utmost importance to the welfare of America, have judged it absolutely necessary that there should be a full representation of the several states, as soon as possible. For this end, I am to request, in obedience to their commands, you will immediately take proper measures to comply with the enclosed resolve, in order that the United States may be fully represented in Congress, and the sentiments of America be the better known, upon those interesting subjects that lie before them. I shall therefore only once more request your compliance with this requisition of Congress; and have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Hon. Assembly of Rhode Island.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Greene.

Providence, October 5th, 1776.

Sir:—I am favored with yours of the 17th ult., which came to hand, when I was in the hospital, under inoculation. By the blessing of God, Mrs. Cooke, myself and the rest of my family, who entered, being ten in number, went through the distemper, and have come out of it very well. I have the pleasure to inform you, that Mrs. Greene, your lady, was yesterday at my house, in good health.

I have written this day to General Washington, upon the requisition of Congress to this state, to raise two battalions to serve during the war, and enclose yon a copy of the paragraph upon that subject. I am, by the advice of the committee, to request your attention to this matter; and that you will give every assistance and information relating to it, in your power.

I am, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To General Greene.

P. S. At the request of the secretary, I send you the enclosed, which are from a young lad, a volunteer, who was taken by Capt. Biddle; we shall be glad if you would serve him.

The Governor of Rhode Island to General Washington.

Providence, October 5th, 1776.

Sir:—Your Excellency's letter of the 17th ult.,* by the committee of this state, hath been received.

Deputy Governor Bradford informed you that it had been recommended to Col. Richmond to march with his battalion to join your army; since which, Mr. Hopkins, a member from this state, of the Continental Congress, hath arrived here; by whose advice it was concluded to stop their march, and to permit such of the men as should incline, to enlist into the Continental navy. The reasons that induced the committee to alter their first intention, were these:

Eight companies of the twelve of which that battalion consists, were enlisted about the middle of November last, for a year. But part of the regiment of militia from the Massachusetts, is yet arrived; and it will be some time longer before the remainder will arrive; so that by the time Col. Richmond's battalion could be got under proper regulations in camp, their enlistments would expire, and it might be expected they would return home, to the great discouragement of the troops left behind.

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* This letter is printed on page 623, Vol. VII., Rhode Colonial Records.

In that battalion, is a considerable number of seamen, who it is thought will enter in the navy; and in the present scarcity of seamen in this state, upwards of twelve hundred being at sea in the different privateers, it is absolutely impossible to supply them with men in any other way.

After the committee had taken the last mentioned resolution, Mr. Burr, a gentleman of character, arrived here from Governor Trumbull, with a plan of landing a body of men upon the east end of Long Island, and collecting a considerable naval force in the Sound. Upon conference with him, and Commodore Hopkins, the committee determined to recommend it to Col. Richmond to proceed with such part of his battalion as should not enter into the sea-service, to New London; there to receive orders from such general officer, as you should appoint to command in that expedition.

The two row-galleys of this state, with about sixty whale-boats, from the Massachusetts, and between twenty and thirty belonging to us, will proceed to New London, with the battalion and their baggage; the galleys and whale-boats will be under the direction of Commodore Hopkins, to assist in the expedition.

I last night received the resolutions of Congress, for enlisting eighty-eight battalions in the Continental service, during the war; copies of which, without doubt, have been transmitted to Your Excellency. By them, a requisition is made for two battalions from this state; at the same, we are informed by Mr. President Hancock, that the troops now in service, belonging to the several states, who shall enlist for the war, will be considered as part of their quota in the American army.

There are two battalions in Continental pay, which were originally raised by this state, viz.. Col. Varnum's, Col. Hitchcock's, Col. Lippitt's, who are now in the army, under your immediate command, and Col. Richmond's, which is under orders for New London.

I write by this opportunity, to the three former, to make report to me of the officers in their several battalions who will engage to serve during the war; and by the advice of the committee, I request Your Excellency to transmit to me, to be laid before the General Assembly, at their session on the 28th instant, the names of such of them as you shall think merit promotion.

I beg leave to assure Your Excellency that this state will give all possible efficacy and dispatch to those important resolutions; and that I am with great sincerity and esteem, sir, Your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

P. S. This letter will be delivered to Your Excellency by Mr. Jonathan Hasard, who is a member of the General Assembly of this state, and whom I beg leave to recommend to your attention.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

Philadelphia, October 9th, 1776.

Gentlemen:—The enclosed resolves, which I transmit in obedience to the commands of Congress, will inform you of the ample provision they have made for the support of both officer and soldier, who shall enter into the service during the war. The pay of the former is considerably increased; and the latter is to receive annually a complete suit of clothes, or in lieu thereof, the sum of $20, should he provide the suit for himself. This additional encouragement, besides the $20 bounty and one hundred acres of land formerly granted, the Congress expect will be the means of engaging the troops to serve during the war.

For this purpose, also, I am to request you will appoint a committee or committees, to repair immediately to the army, to induce such of the troops as have been raised by your state, to enlist during the war, and to appoint officers for the same.

The Congress, for very obvious reasons, are extremely anxious to keep the army together. The dangerous consequences of their breaking up, and the difficulty of forming a new one, are inconceivable. Were this barrier once removed, military power would quickly spread desolation and ruin over the face of our country. The importance, and indeed the absolute necessity of filling up the army, of providing for the troops, and engaging them to serve during the war, is so apparent, and has been so frequently urged, that I shall only request your attention to the resolves of Congress on this subject; and beseech you, by that love you have for your country, her rights and liberties, to exert yourselves to carry them speedily and effectually into execution, as the only means of preserving her in this her critical and alarming situation.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Honorable Assembly of Rhode Island.

P. S. The printed resolves herewith enclosed, relative to the establishing loan offices in the respective states, for the purpose of borrowing money on Continental security, and the regulations with regard to the same, I beg leave to recommend to your immediate attention; and that you will take the proper steps to comply with them.

Major General Nathaniel Greene to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Fort Constitution, October 11th, 1776.

Sir:—His Excellency General Washington will transmit you a list of officers to constitute the two new regiments to be raised by your state. The most of those officers are gentlemen whose conduct has been approved by those under whom they have served.

The success of the cause, the defeat of the enemy, the honor of the state, and the reputation of the army, altogether depends upon the establishing a good core or corps of officers. My little experience has fully convinced me, that without more attention is paid by the different states in the appointment of the officers, the troops never will answer their expectation. I hope as every thing that is dear and valuable is at stake, that no popular prejudices nor family connexion, will influence the House in the election of the officers for the new army.

I am sensible that America has as good materials to form an army, as any state in the world; but without a good set of officers the troops will be little better than a lawless banditti, or an ungovernable mob. The Americans possess as much natural bravery as any people upon earth; but habit must form the soldier. He who expects men brought from the tender scenes of domestic life, can meet danger and death with a becoming fortitude, is a stranger to the human heart. There is nothing that can get the better of that active principle of self-preservation, but a proper sentiment of pride, or being often accustomed to danger. As the principle of pride is not predominant enough in the minds of the common soldiery, the force of habit must be called into its aid, to get the better of our natural fears, ever alarmed at the approach of danger.

There has been, it must be confessed, some shameful conduct in this army, in this campaign, in a great measure owing to the bad conduct of the officers. I have neither seen nor heard of one instance of cowardice among the old troops where they had good officers to lead them on. In the last action, every regiment behaved with becoming spirit; especially Col. Hitchcock's and Col. Varnum's. I don't wish to see an officer

in the army but such as has a regard for their reputation; who feels a sentiment of honor, and is ambitious of distinguishing himself; such will answer all public expectation, and be an honor to the state that sent him.

Col. Varnum, from the treatment he has met with from Congress, has taken the resolution of leaving the army. The colony is generally acquainted with his abilities, that he stands in no need of a recommendation. Perhaps the House may think proper to re-elect him, and give him the opportunity to refuse the appointment, as a compliment due to his past services.

Col. Cornwell and Col. Carey, you'll observe, are both left out in the general's arrangement; they were both in the late action, and behaved exceeding well. But as there is a reduction of regiments, 'tis not possible to accommodate the whole; and there is a preference given by the under-officers; though they never have been consulted upon this occasion. His Excellency has put down only such as appear deserving, without consulting them upon the subject, to know whether they would serve or not. The House will appoint such and so many of those recommended, as they shall think proper, and fill the vacancies of their own choice; but I hope there will be none in the arrangement, but men of merit.

The several retreats and evacuations that have taken place this campaign, without doubt has alarmed the fears of the timid, and aroused their apprehension of an approaching ruin. The source of these misfortunes, have originated from several causes. The strength of the enemy far exceeded the expectations of Congress; the late season that they attempted to call in a reinforcement to our aid; the many delays that took place among the different states, in furnishing their proportion, protracted the time of collecting the forces together to such a degree, that when the enemy had their whole strength together, ours in different detachments were far inferior to theirs.

With a force inferior to the enemy, in number; with troops that were mostly raw and undisciplined, with young and ignorant officers, what could be expected against old experienced officers, with veteran troops to command, short of what has taken place? Especially, when you take in the idea of the extent of ground we had to guard, and the assistance the enemy received from their ships, owing to the situation of the ports occupied. The militia has come and gone in such shoals, that His Excellency could never tell scarcely two days together, the strength he had at any one port.

If the different states complete the establishment, agreeably to the resolve of Congress, and the troops come well officered (for on that the whole depends), I have not the least doubt in my mind, but that in a few months we shall be able to seek the enemy, instead of they us. I know our men are more than equal to theirs; and were our officers equal to our men, we should have nothing to fear from the best troops in the world. I do not mean to derogate from the worth and merit of all the officers in the army. We have many that are in the service, deserving the highest applause; and have served with reputation, and honor to themselves, and the state that sent them; and I am happy that I have it to say that the Rhode Island regiments hitherto, are amongst this number.

Three of the enemy's ships passed the *chevaux-de-frize*, on the North River, yesterday, and went up to Tappan Bay. Our army is strongly fortified, and so much out of the command of the shipping, we have little more to fear this campaign. The troops have been, and still are, exceedingly sickly. The same disorder rages in the enemy's camp, as does in ours, but is much more mortal. Nothing new from the northern army.

I am, with great esteem, your obedient servant,

NATH'L GREENE.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

Commissioners of the Continental Congress to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Philadelphia, October 11th, 1776.

Sir:—Congress being earnestly engaged to make the best provision in their power, for clothing the troops, particularly those who enlist into the new army, have passed the enclosed resolve; and the committee being of opinion that the Assembly of your state can direct the execution of this matter more effectually than they can, request you to apply to the Assembly of your state to appoint the most suitable persons to transact this business with all possible dispatch; and upon letting us know what sums of money you may be able to lay out, it shall be sent you.

We are, with great respect,

Your Honor's most obedient, humble servants,

ROB'T TREAT PAINE,
WM. WILLIAMS,
G. WYTHE,
LYMAN HALL,
JNO. WITHERSPOON,
JOHN PENN,
JOSIAH BARTLETT,
T. STONE,
WM. ELLERY.

To the Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Gen Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, Harlem Heights,
October 12, 1776.

Sir:—The situation of our affairs, and the approaching dissolution of the present army, calling for every possible exertion on our part, to levy a new one; and presuming that your state are about to make an arrangement of officers for the quota of troops which they are to furnish, and that they may wish to know those belonging to them who have served with reputation and bravery, I have thought it expedient to obtain a return by such means as seemed most likely to be well founded. To this end, I have made inquiry, and the enclosed list, which I have the honor to transmit you, comprehends the names of those who, in public estimation, and that of the generals under whom they have more particularly acted, have behaved themselves well and to good acceptance; and whose past conduct gives a reasonable hope that their future will render material services to their country.

The advantages arising from a judicious appointment of officers, and the fatal conseqences that result from the want of them, are too obvious to require arguments prove them. I shall therefore beg leave to add only, that as the well-doing, nay, the very existence, of every army to any profitable purposes, depend upon it, that too much regard cannot be had to the choosing of men of merit, and such as are not only under the influence of a warm attachment to their country, but who also possess sentiments of principles of the strictest honor. Men of this character are fit for office, and will use their best endeavors to introduce that discipline and subordination which are essential to good order, and inspire that confidence in the men which alone can give success to the interesting and important contest in which we are engaged. I would also beg leave to subjoin, that it appears to me absolutely necessary that this business should have your earliest attention, that those who are nominated may employ their

interest and influence to recruit men out of your corps that are now here, without loss of time.

In respect to the officers that were in the Canada expedition, their behaviour and merit, and the severities they have experienced, entitle them to a particular notice, in my opinion. However, as they are under their paroles, I would recommend that vacancies should be reserved for such as you think fit to promote, not wishing them to accept commissions immediately, or to do the least act that may be interpreted a violation of their engagement.

Their releasement, I hope, will be soon obtained, as I think them entitled to the first exchange, and which I have mentioned to Congress.

I flatter myself that the freedom I have taken in the instances above, will have the indulgence and pardon of your state, when I assure you that the list you will receive, is not intended to exclude gentlemen of greater merit, or transmitted with other views than to assist you, and of promoting the general good; and also, that the measure has been recommended by a committee of Congress, who were pleased to honor me with a visit. I have done the same to Governor Trumbull, at his particular request; and the officers are making out a return, to be laid before the Massachusetts Assembly, of the same nature, so far as it concerns the officers from their state.

On the morning of the 9th instant, three of he enemy's ships, two of forty-four guns, and one of twenty, with three or four tenders, ran up the North River, without receiving any interruption from our *chevaux-de-frize*, or apparent damage from our batteries; though a heavy fire was kept up against them from each side of the river; they are laying at Tarrytown, from twenty-five to thirty miles above this; and out-sailing two of our row-galleys in their passage up, they fell into their hands; the crews escaped.

I had liked to have omitted mentioning the appointment of a paymaster to each regiment, who, I perceive, are not noticed in the list transmitted you.

Congress, by a late resolution, have allowed such an officer, with captain's pay; and as their duty will be not only to receive the regiment's pay, but to keep accounts of their clothing and every other incidental charge, I would beg leave to recommend that attention should be had to their appointment; and that persons may be nominated who are well versed in accounts, and who can keep them in a fair and proper manner. I am led to advise this precaution to be used, because it will be an office of a good deal of consequence; and because in several instances in the present army, where the appointments were made in consequence of recommendations from the field officers, persons have been put in, who, so far from being accountants, and answering the designs of Congress, can scarcely write their own names.

October 13.—Yesterday the enemy landed at Frog's Point, about nine miles from hence up the Sound; their number we cannot ascertain, as they have not advanced. The Point is rather an island, as it is surrounded by water every high tide. From the great movements of ships and other vessels up the Sound, in the evening, with troops within, and the information of two deserters who came out last night, there is strong reason to believe they mean to land, and pursue their former scheme of getting in our rear, and cutting off the communication with the country. I have ordered some works to be thrown up on the passes leading from the Sound, where they are landed; and from the situation of the grounds through which they must pass, if they pursue their plan, I would fain hope they will sustain a considerable loss, if not a repulse.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

G. WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

Return of Officers recommended by Gen. Washington to the General Assembly of Rhode Island, for the New Establishment.

Field officers recommended—Daniel Hitchcock, colonel; Israel Angell, lieutenant colonel; Christopher Smith, major.

Officers in service recommended. Captains—Jeremiah Olney, William Tew, Coggeshall Olney, Ephraim Bowen, Simeon Thayer, William Bradford, ——— Carr, ——— Riggs.

First Lieutenants—Stephen Olney, William Allen, William Littlefield, ——— Grant, Joseph Whitmarsh, Daniel Pierce, Amos Crandall, Micah Moulton.

Second Lieutenants—Thomas Hughes, James Webb, William Humphrey, Duty Jerrald.

Ensigns—Ebenezer West, Holliman Potter, Thomas Waterman, Oliver Jenks, Richard Hunniwell.

Staff officers recommended—Chaplain, adjutant, Cyprean Sterry, quartermaster; surgeon, mate.

Field officers recommended—Christopher Greene, colonel; Adam Comstock, lieutenant colonel; Henry Sherbune, major.

Officers in service recommended. Captains—Samuel Ward, John Topham, Ebenezer Flagg, Silas Talbut, Thomas Cole, Jonathan S. Dexter, ——— Martin, ——— Wallin.

First lieutenants—Joseph Arnold, William Belcher, Timothy Lock, Samuel Bissell, ——— Rawson, William Potter, ——— Handy, ——— Noyes.

Second lieutenants—Ichabod Prentice, John Chapman, Edward Slocum, John Remington.

Ensigns—Zephaniah Brown.

Staff officers recommended—Chaplain, adjutant, Clarke Browne, quartermaster; surgeon, mate.

Col. Varnum would have been recommended for a colonel of one of the regiments, but he refuses to serve.

Recommended from the different regiments, the within arrangement for constituting the two Rhode Island regiments, upon the new establishment.

Included in this arrangement, are the following officers, now prisoners of war:

List of Officers who are now Prisoners of War.

Lieut. Colonel Christopher Greene,
Captain Samuel Ward,
Captain John Topham,
Captain Simeon Thayer,
Lieutenant James Webb,
Lieutenant William Humphreys,
Ensign Edward Slocum.

N. B. It is not meant that the within arrangement shall determine the rank of the captains and subaltern officers.

Gen. Nathaniel Greene to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, New York Island,
October 16, 1776.

Sir:—Yours, of the 5th, was delivered by Mr. Haszard; the subject of which, I have written upon before, as fully as necessary. The anxiety I felt for the honor of the state, and the good of the cause, made me anticipate your wishes, relative to recommendations.

I had made a collection of the officers belonging to the three Rhode Island regiments, and delivered it in to His Excellency General Washington, to be forwarded to your state. That recommendation and arrangement of officers is the best that I could make, or recommend to the general, all circumstances considered. The state will act their pleasure with respect to the appointment. The general only wishes to have good men, such as will discharge their duty in every point of view, and maintain the character of gentlemen; he has no attachment to any person farther than his merit recommends him. Men of merit he wishes to be appointed, whether in or out of the army.

General Howe has landed at Frog's Point, a place a few miles east of Hell Gate; he is collecting his force together at that place, with a design to cut off our retreat. His Excellency is making an arrangement to counteract him. The troops appear to be in good spirits; and I am in hopes if Howe attacks us, he will meet with a defeat; a battle daily, nay hourly expected. I shall come in for no share of the honor or glory of the day, if victorious; nor shame or disgrace, if defeated; my command being in Newburg.

Howe's design evidently appears to be, to get in our rear, to cut off our supplies, and starve the army out. This reduces us to the necessity of extending our left wing out in the country, to preserve our communication with the country, from whence we get our support. A few days may produce some events important to the American interest. I was on Staten Island night-before-last; the greatest part of the British troops and Hessians, are drawn off, to support General Howe's operations at Frog's Point.

I am exceeding happy to hear of the —— recovery of your family from the small pox. Present my respects to them, and to Mr. Ward, the secretary. I have carefully sent in the letters, sent me by the flags.

I am, with great respect, your obedient, humble servant,
NATHANIEL GREENE.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on Thursday, the 21*st day of November,* 1776.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. George Sears, with the committee of safety for this state, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to purchase blankets, shirts, stockings, shoes and woolens, fit for soldiers' clothes; and that they take the most effectual and speedy methods for getting such woolens as they may purchase, and those already purchased in behalf of the Continent, made up, that the same may be forwarded as soon as may be, to headquarters, near New York, agreeably to a recommendation of Congress; and that they draw upon the Continental agent for the sums necessary to execute this business.

Whereas, this Assembly hath been requested to give assistance to forward the manning and sailing of those ships and vessels belonging to the Continental fleet and navy, which are now in this state.

And whereas, it is represented to this Assembly, that great uneasiness hath arisen amongst the men belonging to the navy, on account of the wages not having been paid, nor the prize-money distributed; which has not only produced a great disaffection to the service, and now prevents many from entering therein; but has also been represented much to the disadvantage of this state, and proved injurious to that character it has ever supported in the defence of American liberty;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Esek Hopkins, Esq., commodore and commander-in-chief of said fleet, be re-

quested, by special message, to attend this Assembly, in order that by making such inquiry as they think proper, respecting the matters, aforesaid, this Assembly may be enabled to render to the said navy the most effectual assistance, and acquit this state from every injurious misrepresentation on that account.

Whereas, the time of enlistment of a greater part of the soldiers in the regiment under the command of Col. Richmond, hath expired, and the said soldiers are discharged; and whereas, the commissions of the field officers have expired,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the artillery and other companies in said regiment, whose time of enlistment hath not expired, with their respective officers, continue in service, agreeably to their enlistment, and be under the command of Col. Cooke; that the said officers rank agreeably to the date of their commissions.

That the captain and subaltern officers, who have Continental commissions, take rank of the captains and subaltern officers who have militia commissions; and that the thanks of this Assembly be given to Col. William Richmond, and the rest of the officers who have Continental commissions, for their good services during the time they have been in this state.

An Act in addition to an act, entitled "An act empowering the members of the upper and lower houses of Assembly, to tender to such of the inhabitants as are herein mentioned a declaration or test, for subscription."

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that no execution in future be issued on any judgment of any of the courts of law within this state, unless the person or persons in whose favor said judgment is obtained, hath subscribed the test prescribed by any act of this state, or hath taken the affirmation, or produced the proper certificate by said act required; and all executions already issued in favor of any person

or persons who have not subscribed the said test, or taken said affirmation, or produced such certificate, be returned by the officers to whom they may be delivered, to the court to which they may be returnable, unsatisfied, unless the said person or persons, before the return thereof, subscribe said test, or take said affirmation, or produce said certificate.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when any person hath been committed upon any execution, at the suit of any person within this state, who hath not subscribed the test act; and the person committed stands still committed, or is out upon thirty per cent. bond, that such persons be discharged from prison, or from such bonds; the judgment to stand good, and execution to issue thereon, as though no execution had issued, upon the persons who have obtained such judgments first subscribing the test, taking the affirmation, or producing the certificate prescribed by the said act; such persons so committed, paying and discharging the fees for committing, and prison-fees.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person, within or without this state, shall be allowed the privilege of obtaining any judgment or execution, upon any note assigned over by any inhabitant of this state, unless the person who hath assigned the same, hath subscribed said test, or hath taken said affirmation, or produced the certificate by the said act required.

It is voted and resolved, that the secretary do make out an abstract of the officers in the regiments lately under the command of Col. William Richmond, with the respective times of their entering into the service and dismission therefrom; and the extra pay allowed by this state, agreeably to the pay allowed by Congress to the said officers, in order that the same may be signed by the colonel, and delivered to the committee of of safety, to be by them paid.

That Col. Richmond do make out abstracts from the several returns of the companies in the said regiments, and deliver the same to the committee of safety in this state, as soon as may be; who shall immediately upon the receipt

thereof, draw the moneys due thereon, out of the general treasury, and pay the same.

That Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, the standing committee, for auditing accounts for this state, be, and they are hereby, directed to make out an account of all disbursements made by this state, for the said regiment, and present the same, together with the above mentioned account of the extra pay to the officers, to the paymaster of the Continental troops, for the northern district of America, and receive the moneys due, therefor, and pay the same into the general treasury; and that the said standing committee make report of their doings to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

Whereas, it appears, by advice by express from due authority in New London, in the state of Connecticut, that a flag of truce is there arrived from Lord Howe, for a general exchange of prisoners, confined in the marine department.

And whereas, this Assembly is also well informed, that a considerable number of the subjects of the American states have been captured by the British navy, as well those who sailed in American privateers, as in merchantmen; that all are promiscuously confined under decks in large numbers, in a very sickly condition, and under short allowance; therefore, for the relief of such,—

It is voted and resolved, that the brigantine which the masters and mates of the prizes lately captured and brought into this state, purchased agreeably to an act of this Assembly, together with each and every person who hath had a permit to proceed in said brigantine, be detained, and not suffered to depart until further orders from this Assembly, that it may be known, whether if they depart from this port for Great Britain, by permission of this Assembly, a like number will be exchanged for them.

And the sheriff of the county of Providence is hereby ordered and directed immediately to see this resolve carried into execution, if said brigantine is to be found within this

state; and all officers, civil and military, are to aid and assist, if occasion require.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Wanton (son of Gideon), Dr. Jonathan Arnold and Messrs. Immanuel Case, Thomas Holden and Sylvester Child, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to regulate the fees of the several officers within this state; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

An Act for raising a regiment, to serve for three months.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is hereby enacted, that one regiment be forthwith raised from the militia of this state, to consist of the number of men as hereafter ordered; and to continue in the service of this state three months from the time of their enlistment, unless dismissed before that time by this Assembly.

That said regiment be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, and one major, and consist of eight companies; each company to be led by one captain, two lieutenants, and one ensign.

That one adjutant aud one quartermaster be appointed for said regiment.

That said regiment be composed of six men as soldiers, of every hundred of the male inhabitants of sixteen years of age, and upwards, as last estimated within this state.

That the several towns within this state, raise such a number of men within their respective towns, as shall be their proportion, thereof, agreeably to the said estimate.

That if any of the said male inhabitants shall enlist in any other town than the town whereof they are inhabitants, they shall be considered as raised by the towns to which they respectively belong; and the said towns are hereby directed to march their said proportion of men to the island of Rhode Island, within ten days from the rising of this Assembly, upon the penalty of £100, lawful money, to be recovered of any delinquent town, for the use of this state,

by the general treasurer, by bill, plaint or information, in any of the courts of law within this state.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the form of the enlistment for the regiment now ordered to be raised, be as follows, to wit:

Form of Enlistment for the Soldiers.

"I, the subscriber, hereby solemnly engage and enlist myself, as a soldier, in the regiment ordered to be raised from the militia of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in the service and pay of said state, from the day of my enlistment, for and during the term of three months, unless sooner discharged by the Assembly of said state; and I hereby promise to submit myself to all the orders and regulations of the army of the United States; and faithfully to observe and obey all such orders, as I shall receive, from time to time, from my officers."

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the officers and soldiers of the said regiment be, and they are hereby, allowed the same monthly wages, as are allowed the officers and soldiers of the regiment under the command of Col. John Cooke, now upon the island of Rhode Island, aforesaid.

And it is further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that the committee of safety, with such other persons as the several towns within this state shall appoint, are hereby appointed to equip and furnish each and every soldier, who shall enlist, as aforesaid, with a blanket, knapsack, one good fire-arm, with a bayonet and cartridge-box; to be returned to such of the said committee of safety who furnished the same, at the expiration of the time of enlistment of said soldiers.

And it is further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that for as many blankets, knapsacks, fire-arms, with a bayonet and cartridge-box, as cannot readily be furnished by the aforesaid committee, the following sums shall be paid to

each and every soldier who shall furnish himself with them, or either of them, for the use, thereof, to wit:

Thirteen shillings, lawful money, for a blanket; two shillings and sixpence, for a knapsack; twelve shillings for a fire-arm and bayonet; and two shillings and sixpence, for a cartridge-box.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the committees of safety do, and they are hereby directed to receive the fire-arms in the town of Newport, belonging to this state, in order to equip the soldiers, as aforesaid.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that those towns, who, in taking the last estimate, before referred to, included those of their inhabitants who were either in the army or navy, raise only such a number of men as their proportion shall be, agreeably to said estimate, excluding therefrom the persons who were absent, as aforesaid.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the secretary be, and he is hereby directed to transmit to the several town clerks within this state, copies of this act, within forty-eight hours after the rising of this Assembly; and the said town clerks are hereby directed immediately to issue their warrants to call town meetings within their respective towns, to meet as soon as may be, for carrying this act into execution.

It is voted and resolved, that each captain, or next officer in command, of the several independent companies, and companies of militia in this state, notify his company to appear at some proper place on the 29th day of this instant November, under arms, with all accoutrements, agreeably to law.

That such captain or next commanding officer, see that the fines for non-attendance be punctually collected; and make out a list of the deficiency of each person in each article.

That he send a proper officer to the dwelling-house of each person not attending, to examine how far such person be deficient.

That each captain, or next commanding officer of the companies of militia, make a proper return thereof, to the colonel of the regiment to which he belongs.

That each captain, or next officer in command of the independent companies, make a like return to this Assembly, at the next session; and that the secretary transmit a copy of this resolve to each colonel of the militia, and to each commander of the several independent companies in this state, within three days after the rising of this Assembly.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following gentlemen as officers, in the regiment now ordered to be raised:

Officers chosen for the Regiment.

John Sayles, Jr., Esq., colonel; Benjamin Talman, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Thomas Potter, Jr., Esq., major.

Wing Spooner, Christopher Manchester, Jr., Thomas Thompson, Moses Turner, Malachi Hammett, Asa Kimball, Stephen Sheldon and Royzel Smith, captains.

Samuel Stevens, first lieutenant of Capt. Wing Spooner's company.

Walter Palmer, first lieutenant of Capt. Christopher Manchester's company.

William Coon, Jr., first lieutenant of Capt. Thos. Thompson's company.

William Lawless, first lietenant of Capt. Moses Turner's company.

Micah Whitmarsh, first lieutenant of Capt. Malachi Hammett's company.

Squire Fiske, first lieutenant of Capt. Asa Kimball's company.

Nathaniel Carpenter, first lieutenant of Capt. Stephen Sheldon's company.

John Cole, Jr., first lieutenant of Capt. Royzel Smith's company.

Moses Watson, second lieutenant of Capt. Wing Spooner's company.

Thomas Earl, second lieutenant of Capt. Christopher Manchester's company.

Christopher Clarke, second lieutenant of Capt. Thomas Thompson's company.

Vial Allen, second lieutenant of Capt. Moses Turner's company.

Job Greene, second lieutenant of Capt. Malachi Hammett's company.

Laban Waterman, second lieutenant of Capt. Asa Kimball's company.

Esek Olney, second lieutenant of Capt. Stephen Sheldon's company.

Barber Peckham, second lieutenant of Capt. Royzel Smith's company.

Benjamin Cornel, ensign of Captain Wing Spooner's company.

Job Clapp, ensign of Capt. Christopher Manchester's company.

George Wilcox, ensign of Capt. Thomas Thompson's company.

Thomas Swan, ensign of Capt. Moses Turner's company.

Joseph Hopkins, ensign of Capt. Malachi Hammett's company.

Samuel Black, ensign of Capt. Asa Kimball's company.

John Herrington, ensign of Capt. Stephen Sheldon's company.

Lawrence Pearce, ensign of Capt. Royzel Smith's company.

Staff officers—Benjamin Stelle, adjutant; Solomon Townsend, Jr., quartermaster; Stephen Wigneren, surgeon.

And the said Stephen Wigneron is also appointed surgeon to all the forces stationed, or about to be stationed, upon Rhode Island.

It is voted and resolved, that Ebenezer Spencer be appointed captain; William Hall, lieutenant; and John Shaw,

ensign, of the first company of militia, in East Greenwich; and that Amos Jones be ensign of the second company, in said town.

Whereas, Capt. William Sweet preferred his petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that whilst in the service of this state, he, with the sailors under his command, were captured by the enemy, and carried into Antigua; from which place, he, together with Mr. Jonathan Fairbanks, his mate, took passage for Rhode Island, which was very expensive to the petitioner, he being obliged to pay all the expenses of Mr. Fairbanks, or leave him behind.

That he is now sued to Providence court for the money in his hands, belonging to the state, which he ever was, and now is, ready to account for.

And thereupon prayed this Assembly to take his petition into consideration, and grant to him and Mr. Fairbanks their wages and expenses, in the same manner as has been already allowed to the seamen who were captured with him; to which petition, he subjoined an account of their expenses and wages; and the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that £26 10*s.* 4*d.*, of the said account be allowed, and no more; this Assembly deducting therefrom, the charges of wages made; and that said sum be deducted from the demand on which an action has been commenced against the said William Sweet, by this state; and upon his, the said William's paying to the general treasurer the balance that will be due to this state, after making the deduction, aforesaid, that said action be withdrawn.

It is voted and resolved, that the captains now chosen to be commissionated for the regiment ordered to be raised, to be sent upon Rhode Island, take rank according to the date of their commissions, which they have heretofore had for actual service; and those that have commissions bearing equal date, draw for rank; and those who never before had commissions, likewise draw for rank; and that those who

have had commissions for actual service, take rank of those who never had such commissions; and that the lieutenants and ensigns serve in the companies to which they are appointed; and if any of the said officers appointed for said regiment, shall not accept their commissions, that the towns to which they may respectively belong, appoint other persons in their places; and that they be commissionated accordingly.

Whereas, this state is in daily expectation of an invasion from the enemy,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be, and it is hereby, recommended to the inhabitants, thereof, who have stock upon either of the islands of Jamestown or Prudence, to remove the same immediately to the main land; and that the sheriff of the county of Newport give notice to the inhabitants of Jamestown; and the sheriff of the county of Bristol, to the inhabitants of Prudence, of this resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that one month's pay be advanced to every man who shall enlist himself as a soldier, in the regiment ordered by this Assembly to be raised from the militia of this state, at the time of his enlistment.

That the same be paid by the committees of safety, and the persons appointed by the several towns, to furnish the troops with blankets, knapsacks, guns, bayonets and cartouch-boxes, agreeably to the act of this Assembly; and that the persons so appointed by the several towns, be furnished with such sums of money as shall be necessary for furnishing and equipping said troops, and paying the said advanced wages from the committees of safety for this state.

Whereas, the General Court of the state of Massachusetts Bay, by a resolve of the 16th of this instant November, have appointed a committee, to meet committees from the General Assemblies of the states of Connecticut, New Hampshire and this state, at Providence, on the 10th day of December next, in case such committees be by the said Assemblies appointed, to hold a conference respecting further

emissions of paper currency on the credit of any of the said states; also, upon measures necessary for supporting the credit of the public currencies, thereof, &c.; which having been duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., Col. Jonathan Arnold and Henry Marchant, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to meet the said committee from the state of the Massachusetts Bay, at the time and place, and for the purposes in the said resolve mentioned.

Provided, the states of Connecticut and New Hampshire shall think proper to appoint committees for the same purposes; and that the secretary immediately transmit copies of this resolve to the states of the Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Whereas, it is the opinion of this Assembly, that it is highly necessary, for the defence of Rhode Island in particular, and of this state, in general, to keep open the passage at Bristol and Howland's Ferries; and that two strong fortifications be erected at or near each of said ferries; and that it will be expedient to take off so many of the cannon from Rhode Island, as may be necessary for those fortifications;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that one eighteen-pounder, and two twelve-pounders, be left in the fort or battery, at Brenton's Point.

That one twenty-four-pounder, two eighteen-pounders, and two twelve-pounders, be left in Fort Liberty; and that one twenty-four-pounder, two eighteen-pounders, and two twelve-pounders, be left in the North Battery.

That all the cannon mounted on field-carriages, be also left on Rhode Island; and that all the rest of the cannon be forthwith removed to the main land, namely:

Three of the heaviest cannon to Bristol Ferry, and three to Howland's Ferry; and as there are but two cannon now at the battery, on Fox Point, near Providence,—

It is further resolved, that the remainder of the cannon so to

be removed, be removed to the said battery, at Fox Point; that Daniel Mowry, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to see the same removed, accordingly; that Col. Cooke afford him all necessary assistance, with the soldiery under his command, in removing the same; that the galleys be used for conveying said cannon.

That Col. Cooke, Col. Sayles, the said Daniel Mowry and Mr. Joseph Brown, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to plan, lay out and erect said fortifications; and that they also remove such accoutrements, shot and cartridges, with said cannon so to be removed, as they shall think proper; paying a due regard to what may be necessary for the cannon to be left on Rhode Island.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety purchase, on the best terms they can, the woolens in the hands of Mr. Daniel Tillinghast, for clothing the battalions ordered to be raised by this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Thomas Church and Daniel Rodman, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to proceed forthwith to New London, to negotiate with any person or persons, authorized by Lord Howe, an exchange of prisoners; that they inquire into what powers such person may have, for settling the exchange, and appoint the time and place when and where the exchange shall be made.

And whereas, there is a number of masters of vessels, mates, passengers, and apprentices, subjects of the King of Great Britain, now enlarged upon parole, with permission to proceed to Great Britain, in a vessel by them purchased,—

Resolved, that the said committee take an authentic list of their names and stations, and confer with the person or persons so authorized by Lord Howe, as aforesaid, whether if said persons be permitted to proceed from this state, as aforesaid, they will be considered as so many prisoners delivered up to Lord Howe; that upon the conditions of exchange being agreed upon, His Honor the Governor be re-

quested to order all the prisoners in this state, that are not under said parole, to be collected together, and sent under proper guard, to the place agreed on, for the exchange, aforesaid; observing first to exchange the prisoners belonging to this state; and then for prisoners belonging to the United States, in general.

That if the persons so having obtained permission, shall be considered as prisoners delivered to Lord Howe, that then those masters, mates, &c., now under said parole, be permitted to proceed, accordingly; that otherwise, His Honor the Governor, with Messrs. John Jenckes and John Brown, be empowered to suffer all, or so many of them to depart, according to their present parole, as they shall think proper; and that report be made by the said Thomas Church and Daniel Rodman, to His Honor the Governor, as soon as may be.

Whereas, the Continental Congress, on the 31st of October, 1776, did resolve,—

That whereas, it was represented to Congress, that sundry inhabitants of these United States, to keep supplies from the army, or promote their own interest, have purchased considerable quantities of clothing, and refuse to dispose of the same, unless upon extravagant and unreasonable terms; that it be recommended to the Assemblies, Conventions, Councils or committees of safety of the several states, forthwith to take such suitable measures for obtaining for the use of the army, such necessary articles, as being thus engrossed in their respective states, cannot be otherwise immediately procured, allowing to the owners reasonable prices for the same; and that laws be provided in each of the states, for effectually preventing monopolies of necessaries for the army, or inhabitants of the same.

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., Henry Marchant and Jonathan Arnold, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draw up an act for preventing the like abuses for the future, and for the due punishment of all monopolizers and extortioners,

within this state; especially of such articles as are necessary for the clothing and equipping the soldiers, and of all naval and warlike stores.

That said commitee consult thereupon, with the committees that shall convene at Providence, for the regulation of the currency; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed at the last session, to act during the recess of the General Assembly, be continued for the purposes for which they were appointed, until the sitting of this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Sylvester Child deliver to Mr. John Smith, for the use of the county of Providence, the salt he has in his hands, besides the proportion belonging to the county of Bristol.

It is voted and resolved, that the guns belonging to this state, be distributed to the committees of safety, according to the proportion of the male inhabitants of sixteen years of age, and upwards, as last estimated within their respective counties.

It is voted and resolved, that for every bushel of salt delivered by Col. Sylvester Child to the several towns within this state, excepting for the salt ordered by this Assembly to be delivered to Mr. John Smith, for the county of Providence, he be allowed sixpence; and that he retain as much salt as the same amounts to, at and after the rate of five shillings and sixpence per bushel, until a distribution thereof is made.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Daniel Cahoon be, and he is hereby, appointed (in the room of His Honor the Governor, who declines,) a committee-man, to join with Mr. John Jenckes, in fitting out and sending away the ship purchased by this state, to fetch salt, with the greatest dispatch.

Whereas, Col. Joseph Stanton, Jr., hath informed this Assembly that he hath chartered a vessel to send for salt, and that said vessel is unable to proceed on her voyage, for want

of sails, and hath requested this Assembly to furnish him with duck, for the purpose, aforesaid,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Mr. John Jenckes deliver to the said Joseph eight bolts of the duck now in his hands, belonging to this state, at $30 per bolt; and that the said Joseph pay the amount thereof, at the rate, aforesaid, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed by this Assembly, to meet committees from the other New England states, respecting the currency, be requested to desire those committees to agitate in their respective legislatures the necessity of laying an embargo throughout the said states, until the forces proportioned to the said states, are raised, and the Continental ships within the same are manned, and to obtain the sentiments of their respective legislatures thereon, as soon as may be, and make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

Bills to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
John Dexter, for services and expenses in taking an account of the number of the inhabitants of the town of Cumberland	2	14	00
John Dexter, for his time and expenses in furnishing the escutcheons, engraved for lawful money bills	4	10	00
Noah Smith, for his time and expenses in warning the members of the General Assembly, in the county of Providence, to attend the present session of the General Assembly	2	08	00
Pardon Allen, for his time and expenses in carrying letters from South Kingstown, to the Governor, at Providence	1	08	00
Daniel Rodman, for his time and expenses in taking an account of the number of the inhabitants of the town of South Kingstown	4	10	00
Cromel Child, for five hundred weight of cordage	45	00	00
Joseph Coggeshall, for his time and expenses in taking an account of the number of inhabitants of the town of North Kingstown	4	01	00
Col. Henry Babcock, for payment to Sergeant Gardner, who went express to General Washington	20	00	00
Thomas Spencer, for sundry services rendered at East Greenwich, during the session of the General Assembly		14	00
William Sweet, for his attendance on the General Assembly, at this session,		14	00
Arnold Stafford, " " " " " "		14	00

God save the United States of America,

The Governor of Rhode Island to General Washington.

Providence, November 6, 1776.*

Sir:—The General Assembly of this state have ordered two battalions to be immediately raised, agreeably to the requisition of the Honorable Continental Congress, signified to them in a letter from the president of that august body.

Congress recommended that a committee should be appointed and repair to the army, and there appoint the officers. But as Your Excellency was pleased to enclose in your favor of the 12th ultimo, a list of such gentlemen, as would be agreeable to you to receive commissions, the General Assembly strictly adhered to your nomination, although Lieutenant Pendleton and Lieutenant Crandell belong to the state of Connecticut; and Ensign Hunwell to Massachusetts Bay. Col. Varnum is complimented with a commission by this state; but as Gen. Greene, in his letter, has signified that Col. Varnum will decline the appointment, the vacancy can be filled with Col. Greene, who was in the Canada expedition; the General Assembly have not appointed any of those gentlemen who are now upon their parole, but leave that trouble for Your Excellency and General Greene to do, as soon as they may consistently with honor receive commissions.

Your Excellency was pleased to mention the advantages that would result to the army, by a judicious choice of men of strict honor and reputation, to officer the two battalions.

The General Assembly are very sensible of the great benefit that will arise, by having such men only appointed; and as the officers in the two old battalions have been immediately under Your Excellency's command; and the two battalions, heretofore raised by this state, have now joined the army, the General Assembly could devise no better means of effecting that salutary measure, than referring the filling up of all vacancies in the two battalions now raising, to Your Excellency and Gen. Greene.

We desire that the officers nominated, may belong to this state, as we suppose this to be the meaning of Congress, and request Your Excellency that those appointed may immediately enlist every man possible, belonging to the four Rhode Island battalions, in order to complete this state's quota; and that you would be pleased to give every necessary indulgence to the enlisting officers that can be consistently done, to effect the same.

The Assembly requests that Your Excellency would immediately dispatch as many recruiting officers to this state, as can well be spared from duty, in order to effect the completing of the battalions, if they cannot be re-enlisted out of the Rhode Island forces now in the army. Attention will be paid to the officers sent upon this occasion, that they be such as are most likely to succeed in the business. The General Assembly being extremely anxious that the two battalions should be forthwith raised, have, as a farther encouragement for the soldiers to enlist, granted a bounty of $20 to be paid by this state to each and every non-commissioned officer and private soldier who shall so enlist, over and above the provision made for them by Congress.

Messrs. Haszard and Holden, the bearers, will deliver to Your Excellency blank commissions for the officers, which you will please to cause to be immediately filled and delivered to the gentlemen you approbate.

Your Excellency will be pleased to excuse the trouble that the General Assembly have laid on you, from the necessity, they not knowing who will accept of commissions.

Messrs. Haszard and Holden are appointed paymasters to the battalions ordered to

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* This letter is referred to in the proceedings of the General Assembly, in the October session, on page 21, of this volume.

be raised by this state; and are furnished with money to pay the extra bounty allowed by this state, and are to assist in enlisting the men. At the request, and in behalf of the General Assembly—

I have the honor to subscribe myself with great esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the Governor of Connecticut.

Providence, 18th November, 1776.

Sir:—I enclose you a copy of a letter from Major General Lee, which I received last night; you will observe the contents.

I could request Your Honor to be pleased to make every necessary preparation to to give such assistance to this state in case of an attack, as you can afford. I doubt not, sir, if needed, but you will cheerfully lend us all the aid in your power.

I am, &c., &c., NICHOLAS COOKE.

To Governor Trumbull.

[A similar letter was written by Governor Cooke to the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay.]

Gen. Lee to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Camp North Castle, November 14th, 1776.

Dear Sir:—There is no doubt of a considerable force being embarked, or about to embark, on Staten Island. They give out that South Carolina is the place of their destination; but as it is not impossible, or improbable, that they may have some designs against Rhode Island, either on a pillaging scheme, or perhaps with a view of establishing winter quarters for a part of the troops, as they find themselves straightened at New York, I think it my duty to apprize Your Honor of their preparations, that you may be upon your guard, either by removing your stock, fortifying yourselves or, in short, by taking such measures as your wisdom shall dictate for the welfare of America, and your particular security.

I beg you to give my respects to the gentlemen of your Council, to the province at large, and that you will personally be assured that I am, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

CHARLES LEE.

To His Excellency Governor Cooke.

Gen. Lee to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Camp Phillipsburg, 27th November, 1776.

Sir:—As the whole fate of America depends on the speedy completion of the new army, all considerations ought undoubtedly to be postponed to this object.

The officers, and indeed it must necessarily be so, are of opinion that nothing impedes the recruiting of the army so much, as the present rage for privateering; that unless this is in some measure checked, it is vain to expect any success.

I would, therefore, humbly refer to your consideration whether it is not expedient to lay a temporary embargo on privateering until the regiments of each state are completed. Our situation is so delicate and alarming, and the absolute necessity of the army being raised without delay, so obvious, that you will at least excuse the liberty I take in proposing the only mode which occurs to me.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

CHARLES LEE.

To the Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor of the state of Rhode Island.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on Tuesday, the 10*th day of December*, 1776.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that for the future, His Honor the Governor and Deputy Governor, for the time being, and three assistants, or His Honor the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor, with four assistants, shall constitute a quorum of the upper house of Assembly; and that twenty-one deputies shall constitute a quorum of the lower house of Assembly of this state; any law, custom or usage to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Whereas, a large body of the enemy have taken possession of the island of Rhode Island, and are endeavoring to penetrate the country; so that it has become necessary, for the public utility of this state, that a council of war be immediately appointed.

Therefore, voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, His Honor the Deputy Governor, the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Ambrose Page, Esq., Mr. John Tanner, John Dexter, Esq., the Honorable Joshua Babcock, Esq., Mr. Cromel Child, the Honorable William Greene, Esq., and

Henry Ward, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a council of war.

That they, or any five of them, are fully empowered to do, act and transact, all and every thing and matter for the well-being and security of this state, and the United States, in general.

That they make and ordain all such rules, orders and regulations, for the well-governing, ordering, disciplining, clothing and supplying the army, now raised, or that may be raised by this state, and the other neighboring states in conjunction (if such an army should be so raised), as to them shall seem right and just; and that all such rules, orders and regulations, by them made in the recess of the General Assembly, shall be of as full force and authority, to all intents and purposes, as though made and passed by this General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be requested to write to the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, enclosing the resolve of this General Assembly, appointing a council of war, and requesting that each of said states appoint a committee to meet on the 23d of this instant, or as much sooner as possible, in the town of Providence, in this state, with said council of war, to confer upon the expediency of raising an army, for immediate defence against the British fleet and army now within this state, whereby the militia may be relieved; and in general, to consult upon every measure necessary to be taken for the support of the common cause.

It is voted and resolved, that the militia of the town of Little Compton be forthwith removed, and stationed within said town, in such places as Col. Thomas Church shall direct; and that the said Thomas Church procure such boats as shall be necessary for guarding the sea-coast of said town.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. John Mathewson deliver to Mr. Henry Wall two half-barrels of powder for the

town of South Kingstown; and two half-barrels for the town of North Kingstown.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and it is hereby, recommended to the inhabitants on Boston Neck and Point Judith, forthwith to remove their grain, hay and stock, from said Boston Neck and Point Judith; and upon their neglecting so to do, the Colonels Noyes, Sands and Stanton, they, and each of them, with the troops under their command, are hereby ordered immediately to remove the same to such places as they shall judge best, and most safe, and place them out to be kept in the best manner they may be able, which shall be at the proper and only expense of the proprietors of said grain, stock and hay; and said grain, stock and hay shall be liable therefor; and a sufficient part, thereof, shall be withheld by this state, until the charge, thereof, be satisfied and paid.

That the troops of horse from Connecticut, and in this state, be stationed in the county of King's county, at and near Boston Neck and Point Judith; and they are required to aid and assist in guarding the shores, and in driving off and removing said grain, stock and hay; and the said Colonels Noyes, Sands and Stanton are hereby required to secure all the boats upon the coast in King's county, and place them in such parts as may be most for the general safety, and the public service.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Marchant, Jonathan Arnold and Thomas Wells, Esqs., and Messrs. Sylvester Child and Thomas Holden, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, they, or the major part of them, to draw a bill for fixing the prices of all necessary supplies for the army, within or without this state, and the inhabitants, thereof; and that they make report, thereof, to this Assembly, at the next session, or as much sooner, as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that two regiments, consisting of seven hundred and fifty men each; and one regiment of artillery, consisting of five companies of sixty men each, be forth

with raised, for the defence of this, and the other United States.

That Theodore Foster and Daniel Rodman, Esqs., with the secretary of this state, be a committee, to draught a bill for that purpose; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Jenckes be, and and he is hereby, empowered to purchase the goods which were brought into Providence, in the prize vessel called the Friendship, that were stopped by this state, of the agent and owners of the private sloop-of-war which captured the same, on the best terms possible, in behalf of the government.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

Assistants and Militia Officers Chosen.

Ebenezer Slocum, captain; Daniel Deval, lieutenant; and Jacob Soule, ensign, of the second company of militia in the town of Tiverton.

John Jenckes, Esq., fifth assistant, in the room of John Jepson, Esq., who is now upon the island of Rhode Island, which is possessed by the enemy.

Daniel Cahoon, Esq., fifth assistant, in the room of the said John Jenckes, Esq., who refused, engaged.

It is voted and resolved, that one company of militia of the town of Westerly, and one company of militia of the town of Charlestown, be removed from South Kingstown, and be stationed in their respective towns.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Joseph Noyes and Col. Ray Sands, be directed forthwith to accompany the troops of horse stationed at Boston Neck and Point Judith; and that they procure convenient quarters for said troops as nigh said places as possible.

It is voted and resolved, that this state will purchase of His Honor the Governor, and Mr. John Brown, the flour

they have to dispose of, at thirty shillings, lawful money, for every hundred weight; that His Honor the Deputy Governor, receive the flour of Mr. John Brown, or his order, at Bedford; that Col. Samuel Aborn, receive of His Honor the Governor, at Pawtuxet, the flour he has to dispose of; and that they draw orders for the same, at the rate, aforesaid, on the general treasurer.

It is voted and resolved, that Peter Phillips, Esq., be, and he is hereby, directed to deliver to Jonathan Haszard, Esq., all such clothing as he hath now in his hands, that said Haszard shall think necessary for the two battalions now raising by this state, for the Continental service; and that said Haszard be, and he is hereby, directed to send said clothing forward to the western Army.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, by Daniel Rodman, Esq., that a considerable quantity of woolens and flannels, which were bought and paid for, by Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., for the use of this state, are nigh the South Ferry, in South Kingstown,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said Daniel Rodman, together with the committees of safety for Kings county, be, and they are hereby, empowered to procure the same to be forthwith made up into such clothing as they may think most necessary for the soldiers of this state; and that the same be supplied and delivered to the soldiers, at the first cost, by the committees of safety, aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the Colonels Noyes, Sands and Stanton, be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to take up and confine all such persons, as shall in a wilful manner oppose the order of this Assembly, with respect to removing grain, hay and stock off from Boston Neck and Point Judith, and as soon as may be, convey them to some interior part of this state, and keep them under a sufficient guard, until an order of this Assembly can be made respecting them; and that one regiment of troops be ordered to Kings county, who, together with the troops and

cavalry already ordered and stationed there, are hereby directed to afford every assistance necessary to carry this resolve into execution.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, empowered to grant commissions for privateers, or letters of marque and reprisal, to any foreigners who may apply for the same; they first giving bond, with sufficient sureties from any of the United States, for their due observance of the resolves of Congress, and acts of this state, respecting privateers and letters of marque and reprisal; any law, custom or usage, to the contrary, notwithstanding.

An Act for raising, embodying, supplying and paying, two regiments of infantry, each consisting of seven hundred and fifty men; and a regiment or train of artillery, consisting of three hundred men, for the defence of the United States, in general, and of this state, in particular.

Whereas, our enemies have invaded this state, with a powerful armament, and are now in possession of the island of Rhode Island, whereby we are imminently exposed to still more hostile attacks, which renders it necessary that a considerable addition be made to the forces of this state,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that two regiments of infantry, each consisting of seven hundred and fifty men, including officers; as also a regiment of artillery, consisting of three hundred men, officers included, be immediately raised, for the defence of the United States, in general; and of this state, in particular.

That the said three regiments be formed into one brigade, under the command of a general.

That each regiment be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, and one major.

That there be appointed for each regiment one adjutant, one surgeon and one surgeon's mate.

That each of the regiments of infantry consist of eight companies, which shall be commanded by one captain, two lieutenants and one ensign.

And that the said regiment of artillery consist of five companies, which shall be commanded by one captain, and such other officers as shall be hereafter appointed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each able bodied, effective man, who shall enlist himself into either of said regiments, shall be furnished with one blanket, a knapsack, a gun, bayonet, cartouch-box and canteen; and that he be allowed £6, lawful money, as a bounty.

And if any man, who shall enlist himself, as aforesaid, shall furnish himself with a gun, bayonet, cartouch-box, blanket, knapsack and canteen, he shall be allowed therefor, the sums following, that is to say:

Eighteen shillings for a gun, bayonet and cartouch-box; twenty-four shillings for a blanket; four shillings and six-pence, for a knapsack; and two shillings for a canteen.

And if any man, who shall be enlisted into either of said regiments, shall not be approved of by the muster-master of the regiment into which he may be enlisted, all sum or sums of money which he shall have received, shall be deducted from the wages of the officer who shall enlist him.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each officer appointed in said regiments, shall be entitled to, and receive, the same wages as officers of the same rank in the Continental service; and that every person who shall enlist as a soldier into either of said regiments, shall be allowed and paid as wages, £3, per month.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each able-bodied man, who shall enlist himself into either of said regiments, shall be allowed twelve shillings per week, after enlistment, and before they shall be embodied; and that they be embodied within one week after they shall be enlisted.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the officers and soldiers engaged, as aforesaid, shall receive their pay monthly.

That each soldier be paid one month's wages in advance, upon enlistment; and that six shillings, lawful money, be allowed and paid to every officer, for every able-bodied and effective man, who shall be enlisted by him into either of said regiments.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the officers and soldiers, when embodied, as aforesaid, shall be under the same rules, orders and regulations, as those of the Continental army; and that each field-officer and captain be furnished with printed copies, thereof.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each soldier be enlisted by signing the following enlistment, to wit:

Form of Enlistment for the Soldiers.

"I, the subscriber, do hereby solemnly engage and enlist myself as a soldier, in the pay of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, for the preservation of the liberties of America, and the defence of the United States in general, and of this state, in particular, from the day of my enlistment during the term of fifteen months, unless sooner discharged by this General Assembly; and I hereby promise to submit myself to all the orders and regulations of the army, and faithfully to observe and obey all such orders as I shall receive from time to time, from my officers."

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no officer or soldier be arrested, prosecuted or detained in jail, for any debt, whatsover, less than £15, lawful money, due to one creditor; and that every apprentice who shall enlist into either of said regiments, shall be entitled to, and receive, the whole of his bounty and wages.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

a quartermaster be appointed to each regiment, to supply the said troops with clothing and other necessaries as shall be provided by this state, for the use of said regiments, at such prices as shall be established by this Assembly, or by the council of war, appointed to act in the recess, thereof.

Provided, said quartermaster deliver nothing to any soldier without an order from the captain, or commanding officer of the company, for the time being, to which such soldier belongs; and that no order be drawn on the quartermaster for any sum exceeding the wages which shall be then due to the soldier applying for the same.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, to wit:

Officers chosen for the two Regiments.

James Mitchell Varnum, Esq., brigadier general of all the forces now raised, or to be raised, within this state.

Monsieur François Lellorquis De Malmedy, chief engineer and director of the works of defence within this state, with the rank of brigadier general.

John Cooke, Esq., colonel of one of the regiments of infantry now ordered to be raised for fifteen months.

Benjamin Talman, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the same regiment.

William Bradford, Jr., Esq., major of the same regiment.

Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq., colonel of the other regiment of infantry, now ordered to be raised for fifteen months.

Archibald Crary, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the same regiment.

William Barton, Esq., major of the same regiment.

Robert Elliott, Esq., colonel; William Wall, Esq., lieutenant colonel; and Job Pierce, Esq., major, of the regiment of the train of artillery.

Ebenezer Adams, Gideon Westcott, Jabez Westcott, Jr., Samuel Sweet and John Tillinghast, captains of the several companies in the regiment of the train of artillery.

Jonathan Clarke, Esq., linguist to Brigadier General De Malmedy, with the rank and pay of a major.

Abimelech Riggs, Caleb Carr, Reuben Ballou, James Williams, James Parker and Thomas Allin, captains in Col. Cooke's regiment.

Joseph Nightingale, Esq., major general of the militia of this state, in the room of Joshua Babcock, Esq., who is appointed one of the council of war.

Thomas Thompson, Royzel Smith, Malachi Hammett, George Thurston, Jr., Peleg Slocum and William Roy, captains in Col. Stanton's regiment.

Henry Alexander, first lieutenant in Captain Riggs's company.

Ebenezer Macomber, first lieutenant in Captain Carr's company.

Squire Fiske, first lieutenant in Capt. Ballou's company.

Jacob Belknap, first lieutenant in Captain Williams's company.

Benjamin Church, first lieutenant in Captain Parker's company.

William Lawless, first lieutenant in Captain Allin's company.

Peleg Berry, first lieutenant in Captain Thompson's company.

William Coon, Jr., first lieutenant in Captain Smith's company.

Micah Whitmarsh, first lieutenant in Captain Hammett's company.

Beriah Lewis, first lieutenant in Captain Thurston's company.

Benjamin Gorton, second lieutenant in Captain Williams's company.

Edward Crandall, second lieutenant in Captain Smith's company.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, empowered to hire, in behalf of this state, £30,000, lawful money, at and after the rate of four per

cent., per annum; and that he give his notes, therefor, payable on demand.

It is voted and resolved, that three shillings per day, be allowed to every person who appeared without arms in the late alarm, upon their producing a certificate from their respective town councils, that they were unable to furnish themselves.

It is voted and resolved, that each and every soldier of the independent companies, and companies of militia; and the soldiers upon the alarm list, who have been upon actual duty upon the late alarm within this state, properly equipped as by law required, shall be entitled to, and receive, three shillings per day, for each and every day they have been, and shall continue, in actual service; and that each and every officer who hath been upon duty, as aforesaid, shall have his wages augmented in the same proportion as the soldiers are; that is, fifty per cent.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Bristol, be, and he is hereby, directed to take possession, in behalf of this state, of the real estates in said county, belonging to William Vassal, Isaac Royal and Thomas Palmer, Esqs., who are suspected of being enemies to the United States.

That the sheriff for the county of Providence take possession of two horses belonging to said Vassal, now in Providence; and that Messrs. John Waldron and Matthew Cushing render an account to this Assembly, at their next session, of the goods in their possession, belonging to either of the aforenamed persons; and the commanding officer in the county of Bristol, is directed to cut as much wood off said estates as shall be wanted for the use of the troops stationed in the towns of Bristol and Warren; keeping an account of the quantity, and making as little waste as possible.

And it is further resolved, that the estate of John Borland, deceased, in said county of Bristol, be also taken possession of by the said sheriff, in behalf of this state; and that Mr. Nathaniel Pierce, who has improved said estate, account

with the treasurer, forthwith, for the rents and profits of said estate, now in his hands.

It is voted and resolved, that the alarm-list, in each town within this state, be embodied into a separate company, to be led by one captain, two lieutenants and one ensign, to be chosen by the company so embodied.

That said company do equip themselves, and be commissioned by His Honor the Governor; and that the officers, aforesaid, take rank with the several independent companies within this state, and do duty, accordingly.

Whereas, Simeon Potter, Esq., one of the assistants of this state, hath neglected to attend this Assembly, for several sessions, last past; and whereas, it is necessary, in the present critical situation of our public affairs, that the members of the Assembly should give their attendance,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Mr. Cromel Child, be, and he is hereby, appointed to wait on the said Simeon Potter, Esq.; that he request him to render his reasons for absenting himself from this Assembly; and that he give his attendance, if he see fit, at the next session of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety pay the accounts that may be presented to them, for victualling and lodging the troops that have marched to the assistance of this state, upon the late alarm, if the same appear to them just and reasonable; and that they allow one shilling for a meal, and twopence for a night's lodging.

It is voted and resolved, that the act permitting inoculation within this state, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

That the civil authority use their utmost endeavors that all offenders against former acts, respecting the spreading infectious diseases, be brought to condign punishment, agreeably to the penalties annexed to the breach of said acts.

That this resolve be in force two days after the rising of this Assembly; and that it be published in the next Providence Gazette.

Whereas, Brigadier General Malmedy hath represented unto this Assembly, that on the 19th day of September last,

he was, by order of Congress, appointed in the Continental service, and in which he hath continued until the 13th of December current, when he arrived in the town of Providence; that exclusive of his pay and rations received, there still remains a balance in his favor, of the sum of $45, for which he requested this Assembly to order him payment; and the same being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid sum of $45, be paid unto the said General Malmedy, by either of the committee of safety, within this state.

God save the United States of America.

Gen. Schuyler to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Saratoga, December 3d, 1776.

Sir:—The term of enlistment of the troops that now garrison Ticonderoga, Fort George, &c., will expire on the last day of this month; and I fear they cannot be prevailed upon to remain there after that.

It is therefore of the utmost consequence, that troops should be expedited to this department the soonest possible; and agreeably to the enclosed resolution of Congress, I do myself the honor to entreat you to order such parts of each regiment to be raised in your state, for this department, as can be got ready to march, so as that they may arrive at Albany by the latter end of this month.

As it is impossible to prevent the enemy from gaining intelligence of what passes in this quarter, should the troops now at Ticonderoga leave it before others come up to relieve them, General Carlton will doubtless take the advantage of it, and possess himself of that important post; and what the consequences would be, are easily conceived.

I do not therefore doubt but that every exertion will be made by your state to hasten on the troops. I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient, humble, servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke, &c., &c.

Artemas Ward, of Massachusetts, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Boston, 3d December, 1776.

Sir:—Your favor of this day,* I have just received, informing me that you apprehend an attack from the enemy.

As the most of the troops that have been stationed here, are dismissed, it is not in my power, at present, to afford you any assistance. This state has ordered a part of the militia of three counties to march to your assistance, which I hope will be a sufficient reinforcement. I shall be ready at all times to afford your state all the assistance in my power. I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ARTEMAS WARD.

To the Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq.

* The letter of Governor Cooke to Artemas Ward, here referred to, is not found in the public archives.

Commodore Hopkins to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Providence, December 4th, 1776.

Gentlemen:—I received your resolve of this day, and note the contents of it. I now let you know I have long had orders from the honorable marine committee to get all the vessels out as soon as I could man them.

I should be glad that your honorable board would devise some way to compell their men to enlist; and likewise some way that the great number of deserters may be sent on board, a considerable number of whom are now in this state.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor of the state of Rhode Island; to be laid before the committee of said state.

Resolve of the Committee of Safety of the State of Rhode Island.

Unanimously resolved, by all the members of the upper and lower houses of Assembly, now present, to wit:

His Honor the Governor, and three of his Council, and eleven members of the General Assembly, that we will, and do hereby, advise Commodore Hopkins, with the Continental vessels under his command, within any of the harbors of this state, to put to sea as soon as he thinks the same can be done with safety.

A copy of an order of part of the committee appointed to act in the recess of the Assembly, in December, 1776. HENRY WARD, Secretary.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Commodore Hopkins.

Providence, December 4th, 1776.

Commodore Hopkins, Sir:—Yours, of this date, is before us; by which, we observe you have orders from the honorable marine committee, to get all the vessels under your command out as soon as you could man them; and as you request of us to devise some method to complete the same, we do assure you that nothing in our power, in a constitutional way, shall be wanting to effect so desirable an object, as the sailing of the new frigates; and recommend that the strictest punctuality be attended to; that every man in the naval department be, as soon as possible, paid off both his wages and shares of all prizes heretofore taken; which will be a great inducement for other men to engage in the service.

We are not now a committee, but as soon as we are, make no doubt we shall resolve that all the officers both civil and military, within this state, give every assistance in their power to your officers, to get their men on board; and hope more care will be taken to keep them there, till the ships sail, than has been heretofore used; and if you have not a full complement of men to attack ships of any considerable force, we think it advisable, if you have a sufficient number to navigate the ships with safety round into Boston Bay, to join the Continental ships there, that you immediately proceed.

We make no doubt that the state of the Massachusetts Bay would assist the completion of your complement of men in a more speedy manner than 'tis in the power of this small state to do (whose men are already so greatly exhausted); if not, they will then be in a place of safety, and may be rendered serviceable whenever fully manned;

which if they remain here, cannot be, provided this harbor is blockaded, which is hourly expected.

All the deserters from your ships that can be found in this state, shall be taken up, and sent to you, to Boston, if you think proper to go there.

I am, &c., NICHOLAS COOKE.

To Commodore Hopkins.

The Governor of Connecticut to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Lebanon, 4th December, 1774,
Half-past 9 o'clock, A. M.

Sir:—This moment, I received under cover with mine, the enclosed, for President Bowdoin, of the Massachusetts; coming open to me, have enclosed it to you, to observe the contents, to seal and forward immediately by express.

General Lee was crossing the ferry nigh Peck's Hill, the 1st December, going into the Jerseys. Rogers, the famous, or rather infamous Rogers, who commanded the Rangers in the British service, is disgraced.

This state have declined meeting by commissioners at Providence, to consider and join in measures for securing the bills of credit current in the states, against depreciating. The reasons were, that the Honorable Continental Congress were taking up the subject, and the fears we had that such a step would occasion jealousies in the other states, and endanger so cordial a union.

This state have made the Continental, and its own bills of credit, a legal tender in all payments, and in the treasury.

A tax of sevenpence on the pound, in the public list, is made payable the 10th of May next. The collecting warrants are now out; the prices of the most essential articles are fixed, and an embargo laid on them. We wish to assist all in our power for securing the rights of the United States.

I am, with great truth and regard,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

JONA. TRUMBULL.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke.

Commodore Hopkins to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Providence, December 5th, 1776.

Sir:—Yours, of yesterday, I have just received; and I shall take it for granted, that you will take every legal method to forward the manning of the ships; and as to what you infer with respect to the wages and prize money, I must now let you know that I am not agent or paymaster; that I have nothing to do in that matter, further than to use my influence that right be done to every man in the navy.

I have no knowledge of any fraud in any officer under my command, and I believe there is none.

I shall caution the officers to take care to keep the men on board; although I believe the greatest part of the desertion was before they ever came on board; and as to what you seem to desire, that the ships should go round to Boston, my orders will not admit of such a step; and if they would, I can see but little prospect of getting men there, as I am well assured, that if one of the ships there had been manned, she would have sailed before now. I am, sir, yours, and the members of the Assembly's

Most humble servant, ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., to be laid
before such members as he may think fit.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the Members of the General Assembly in Bristol County.

Providence, December 11th, 1776.

Gentlemen :—The absolute necessity of the General Assembly's meeting at this time, is so very obvious, that it is needless for me to mention particulars.

The forces that are already arrived in this state, make it necessary that suitable provision be made for them. Committees must be appointed to meet delegates from the neighboring states, in order that proper magazines be established for the support of the army ; indeed the very many and important things to be transacted at this critical time, will not admit of excuse from any member of either house.

I must therefore most earnestly entreat that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Mr. Potter, Mr. Sayles, Mr. Church, together with every member of each house of Assembly in Bristol county, do immediately come to Providence; which if they do, we shall be able to constitute a house ; the most of the members who met this day at Greenwich, have concluded to come here, and some of them have arrived.

Gentlemen, pray do not neglect coming, as the occasion is so very pressing ; you may easily conceive the disadvantages that will occur at this time, if there are not sufficient members to make a house. I am, gentlemen, &c.,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the members of the General Assembly in Bristol county.

The General Assembly of Rhode Island to the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations :
In General Assembly.

Providence, December 13th, 1776.

Honorable Gentlemen :—We have not as yet, perfect intelligence of the force of the enemy upon Rhode Island; but by the best accounts we have been able to collect, their numbers do not exceed eight, nor fall short of five thousand men.

The militia of the Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, with a spirit and an ardor that does them honor, have marched to our assistance; and with the militia of this state, amount to between six and seven thousand, who are at present posted in many different places round the bay, but without form ; not having a leader, nor any general plan of offence or defence.

In this situation of affairs, being sensible that, although the blow hath first fallen upon us, the safety of New England, and perhaps the fate of America, depends upon establishing an army with the utmost expedition, capable of opposing that body of the enemy, which hath taken possession of Rhode Island ; and fully convinced that the authority of this state will prove inadequate to the giving form to, and regulating an army collected from the different states ; and to the directing of their operations.

We have appointed a council of war, with full power to exert the force of this state, in concurrence with committees that may be appointed from the other New England states, in the necessary measures for the common defence.

We transmit you, by express, a copy of the vote, not doubting your immediate attention to this important object, and the most vigorous exertions of the powers of your state, for the public safety. We are, honorable gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servants.

Signed at the request and in behalf of the General Assembly.

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Honorable General Court of the Massachusetts Bay.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on Monday, the 23d day of December, 1776.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to Daniel Tillinghast, Esq., Continental agent in this state, to supply Major General Lincoln with such Continental stores as are in his custody, and are necessary for the troops under the command of the said Major General Lincoln.

Whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that James Joseph Halleen, a French gentleman, now in this state, hath purchased a schooner, which is now within this state, and is desirous of proceeding with her to one of the French West India islands,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that he be permitted to proceed with said vessel, manned only with Frenchmen, on said voyage; and that he take on board hoops, shingles, and two hundred shaken casks, under the direction of His Honor the Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. David Gifford be permitted to proceed with a flag of truce to Rhode Island, under the direction of His Honor the Governor, upon his

procuring three prisoners of war to exchange for three soldiers lately belonging to his company, and now detained as prisoners on said island.

It is voted and resolved, that the inhabitants of Point Judith and Boston Neck forthwith remove the grain and one-eighth of the hay from the said Point Judith and Boston Neck, to such places as the commanding officers, who are there stationed, shall direct; and that they remove their stock upon the approach of the enemy, to such places as their hay shall be removed to; any resolve of this Assembly, to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, to wit:

Officers Chosen for the Militia.

Oliver Spink, ensign of the first company of militia, in Exeter, in the room of Henry Reynolds, who refused.

Phineas Kinyon, captain of the third company of militia, in Exeter, in the room of Daniel Barber, who refused to sign the test.

Azariah Crandall, lieutenant of said company, in the room of Phineas Kinyon, advanced.

Robert Potter, ensign, of the first company of militia in the town of Johnston, in the room of James Fenner, removed out of town.

Thomas Clarke, major of the second regiment of militia, in Kings county.

Smith Bowen, lieutenant of the company of militia, in the town of Warren, in the room of John Ormsbee, who has left the government.

Curtis Cole, ensign of said company, in the room of Smith Bowen, advanced.

Peter Wright, captain; and Sylvester Peirce, ensign, of the first company in North Kingstown.

Asaph Bennet, captain of the fourth company of militia,

in the town of Coventry, in the room of Joseph Whipple, who hath resigned.

Samuel Parker, ensign of said company, in the room of Asaph Bennet, advanced.

Benjamin Tallman, Esq., colonel of the first regiment in the brigade, ordered to be raised at the last session, in the room of Col. John Cooke, who has resigned.

Christopher Smith, Esq., lieutenant colonel of said regiment.

Cyprian Sterry and Reuben Wightman, captains, in Col. Tallman's regiment.

James Albro (in the room of George Thurston, Jr., who has resigned); Josiah Gibbs (in the room of William Roy, who has resigned); Benjamin West and Nathaniel Hawkins, captains in Col. Stanton's regiment.

It is voted and resolved, that the clerk of the inferior court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace, for the county of Newport, be, and he is hereby, directed to remove the records, files, &c., of said court, from Warren (where they now are), to some safer place, farther distant from Rhode Island, as soon as conveniently may be; agreeably to such advice as shall be given him by the deputies of the town of Warren.

It is voted and resolved, that twenty-five cords of wood be the proportion of that article to be furnished by James Angell, Esq., for the use of the troops now in the town of Providence; and upon his delivering that quantity, that he be excused from any further demands for wood, for the purpose, aforesaid, until the other owners of wood, in the vicinity of said town, have furnished in the same proportion; and that what he has already delivered for the use of said troops, be considered as part of his proportion, as aforesaid.

Whereas, the council of war, on the 21st day of December current, passed a resolve for retaining the provisions, suitable for the army; and the rum and other spirituous liquors (wine only excepted), within the town of Provi-

dence; and whereas, it is found said resolve hath been attended with many inconveniences,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, repealed.

Whereas, the act made and passed at the last session of this Assembly, permitting and directing the alarm list or men, to form themselves into companies, choose their own officers, and that their officers should rank as those of the independent companies, may admit of various constructions:

Wherefore, to prevent any uneasiness or difficulty arising on that account,—

Resolved, that it was, and now is, the meaning and intention of this Assembly, that the officers of said companies, in all courts martial and councils of war, shall hold the rank of like officers in the independent companies; that at all times of general alarm, and on general field-days, they be under the command and direction of the field officers of the regiments within whose districts they respectively live; and that at all other times they are to meet with, and be under the command of the officers of their own companies.

And it is further resolved, that until the alarm-men, in each town have formed themselves into companies, as aforesaid, and elected their officers, and returned their names to the Governor, in order to be commissioned, they be under the command of their respective militia officers, in the same manner they were, before the passing of the said act; any thing therein contained, to the contrary, notwithstanding.

And it is further resolved, that there shall be thirty-two men, at the least (exclusive of officers), in order to entitle them to the privileges of a separate company; and that this act be printed, and a copy thereof sent by the secretary to each town clerk in the state, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £40,000, be hired by this state, for the use, thereof; that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to give his notes, therefor; that no sum less than £10, be received, or note

given therefor; that said notes run payable to ———, or order, within two years from the date, with interest at six per cent. per annum, until paid; and for the punctual payment of said notes,—

It is further voted and resolved, that this Assembly will, within the term of two years, assess and levy upon the ratable estates and polls of the inhabitants within the same, or upon such parts, thereof, as a tax may practicably be laid, a sufficient sum or sums, to pay the same, with the interest; and that, if it shall appear impracticable to levy any tax, therefor, within the said time, the possessors of said notes shall be entitled, after the time limited for the payment thereof, to receive such interest as shall then be the usual interest allowed by the United States, in general.

And it is further resolved, that the form of the notes be as follows, viz.: ·

Form of the Notes to be given by the Treasurer.

"State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. }

By virtue of an act of said state, and as general treasurer thereof, for value received, I promise to pay ———, or order, ——— pounds, lawful money, within two years from the date hereof, with interest at six per cent. per annum, for the same, until paid. Witness my hand, this ——— day of A. D. 177—."

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Rodman and Jabez Bowen, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to inquire of the commissaries, now here from the neighboring states, the allowance of provision and necessaries to the said soldiers in Continental service, and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, appointed to superintend the printing of the notes, ordered at this session to be printed.

This Assembly having requested a conference with the other states of New England, at Providence, who have accordingly appointed committees, but with other powers and authorities than are given by this state, and consisting of a less number,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the Honorable William Bradford, Esq., the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq. and Henry Ward, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to confer with the committees of the states of Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut and New Hampshire, now convened in this state, upon the expediency of raising and appointing an army, for the more immediate defence of the New England states, against the threatened invasion, as well as for the more general defence in the common cause; and of such regulations as may be necessary to support the credit of our currencies, to prevent the oppressing the soldiers, and inhabitants, by extravagant prices; and in general, of every measure, to expedite the raising and appointing an army, or, necessary for common defence; and to make report to this Assembly, of whatever they may judge fit to be done, for approbation; and that suitable measures may be pursued thereon, until the whole subject matter can be laid before the Honorable Congress of the United States of America, and measures taken, and directions given by them, thereon; and that this appointment be considered as having been made and taking place on the 25th instant.

Whereas, Col. Ray Sands laid before this Assembly a memorandum of sundry effects, taken the 18th instant, by Capt. Taylor and Lieut. Kinyon's companies, in his regiment, out of a ferry boat, which was run aground near the North Ferry, by the enemy, who were driven off by said companies, and requested the orders of this Assembly for making disposition of the same; whereupon—

It is voted and resolved, that the said effects be disposed of at public vendue; and that one-half the money arising from the sale of any of the articles formerly belonging to said ferry boat, be paid to the owners of said boat; and the

remainder be distributed to the persons who captured the same, in the proportion as is by law allowed to officers and soldiers, for any vessels and cargoes that may be captured by them, and duly condemned.

It is voted and resolved, that the standing committee of this state inquire into and ascertain the losses sustained by any of the soldiers of this state, on the islands of Jamestown and Prudence.

It is voted and resolved, that eight pence, lawful money, be allowed to Mr. John Carter, for each and every hundred bills, by him last printed, in addition to what has already been allowed him for the same.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following officers for the brigade ordered at the last session to be raised, viz.:

Officers Chosen for the Brigade.

Cyrian Sterry, Esq., major of brigade.

Officers in Col. Tallman's regiment—Christopher Manchester, captain, in the room of Cyprian Sterry, advanced.

William Sayles, first lieutenant in Capt. Reuben Ballou's company, in the room of Squire Fiske, who declines serving.

Benjamin Steward Wallcutt, second lieutenant; and Samuel Whipple, ensign, of said company.

David Bacon, first lieutenant; William Allen, second lieutenant; Abraham Andrews, ensign, in Capt. Abimelech Riggs's company.

Walter Channing, second lieutenant; Daniel Fiske, ensign, in Capt. Caleb Carr's company.

Zadock Williams, second lieutenant, in the room of Benjamin Gorton, who declines; Daniel Sheldon, ensign, in Capt. James Williams's company.

Jonathan Maxson, second lieutenant; Barber Peckham, ensign, in Capt. James Parker's company.

Thomas Swan, second lieutenant; Thomas Pearce, ensign, in Capt. Thomas Allen's company.

Henry Alexander, first lieutenant; Daniel Green, second lieutenant; Joseph Hopkins (son of Samuel), ensign, in Capt. Reuben Wightman's company.

Walter Palmer, first lieutenant; Robert Rogers, second lieutenant; Joshua Babcock, 2d, ensign, in Capt. Christopher Manchester's company.

Benjamin Stelle, adjutant; John Handy, quartermaster.

Officers in Col. Stanton's regiment—Matthew Randall, second lieutenant; Daniel Stafford, ensign, in Capt. Thomas Thompson's company.

James Cotterell, ensign in Capt. Royzel Smith's company.

Job Greene, second lieutenant; William Whipple, ensign, in Capt. Malichi Hammett's company.

John Cole, first lieutenant, in the room of Beriah Lewis, who declines serving; Francis Willett Gardner, second lieutenant; Joseph Manchester, ensign, in Capt. James Albro's company.

Gabriel Allen, first lieutenant; David Bentley, second lieutenant; Nathan Westcott, ensign, in Capt. Peleg Slocum's company.

Philip Trasten, first lieutenant; Isaac Johnston, second lieutenant; George Briggs, ensign, in Capt. Josiah Gibbs's company.

Joseph Springer, first lieutenant; Charles Dyer, second lieutenant; Asa Kenna, ensign, in Capt. Benjamin West's company.

John Pearce, first lieutenant; Edward Coleman, second lieutenant; Joseph Rhodes, ensign, in Capt. Nathaniel Hawkins's company.

Jonathan Deval, Jr., adjutant; Solomon Townsend, Jr., quartermaster.

Officers to Command the several Companies, in the Regiment of the Train of Artillery.

Capt. Joshua Sayer's company—Nathaniel Gladding, captain-lieutenant; Rhodes Packard, first lieutenant; William

Ham, second lieutenant; Edward Price, lieutenant-fireworker.

Capt. Jabez Westcott's company—Philip Morse, captain-lieutenant; Thomas Carlile, first lieutenant; Ezekiel Burkett, second lieutenant; Cyrus Manchester, lieutenant-fireworker.

Capt. Samuel Sweet's company—John Warner, captain-lieutenant; William Comstock, first lieutenant; Elijah Babbitt, second lieutenant; William Page, lieutenant-fireworker.

Capt. Gideon Westcott's company—Samuel Angell, captain-lieutenant; Amos Jillson, first lieutenant; Uriah Westcott, second lieutenant; Benjamin Bickford, lieutenant-fireworker.

Capt. Ebenezer Adams's company—John Garzia, captain-lieutenant; Joseph Crandall, first lieutenant; John Proud, second lieutenant; William Fiske, lieutenant-fireworker.

William Donnison, adjutant; George Richards, quartermaster.

It is voted and resolved, that, in future, no money be paid out of the general treasury of this state, to any person, unless he produces an order therefor, from this Assembly, or from the council of war, appointed to act in the recess, thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Joseph Lawrence procure suitable quarters for the officers of the artillery company, from the town of Boston, now in this town.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Joseph Brown and Capt. Silas Talbot be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, forthwith to procure two suitable vessels for fire-ships, and fix the same in the best manner, as soon as may be; and that when fixed, they be under the command of the said Silas Talbot.

Resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to His Honor the Governor, that he immediately issue his orders, as commander-in-chief of this state, to all field-officers within

the same, commanding and strictly enjoining them to cause the military laws and regulations, now in force, to be punctually executed and obeyed in their respective regiments; that in so doing, they shall be supported by the authority of this state; and that any field-officer neglecting or refusing his duty in this respect, shall be answerable for such neglect or refusal, in manner as by said laws and regulations is prescribed and directed.

It is voted and resolved, that the officers of Col. Sayles's regiment be dismissed; that the soldiers, thereof, be permitted to enlist into the regiments last ordered by this state, and receive the bounty allowed them.

That those soldiers of Col. Sayles's regiment, who may not enlist anew, be turned over to the last regiments ordered, in equal proportions, till the three months they enlisted for, shall be expired; and that this resolve be in force in ten days after the rising of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, empowered to supply Mr. Joseph Brown with any sum, not exceeding £1,000, when called for, till the further order of this Assembly, or the council of war, for the purpose of preparing two fire-ships.

It is voted and resolved, that all male persons, subject by law to bear arms, whether of the militia, alarm-list or independent companies, within this state, be draughted in three divisions, under the direction of the field-officers of each regiment, or commanders of each company; and that those of the militia, or alarm-list of each division, be formed into companies, to be commanded by officers draughted in like manner, for each division; and those of independent companies, by officers draughted from their respective companies, for each division; and that the draught of every division, as aforesaid, be made by the respective field officers, and commanders of independent companies, on Monday, the 6th day of Janury next.

And it is further resolved, that immediately upon said draught being completed, the field-officers and commanders,

as aforesaid, shall cause the first division to be formed into companies, apportion to each their proper officers, and cause them to march, as soon as possible, to such place or places for duty, as the Governor, or commander for the time being, shall direct; and that thereupon, those of the several regiments and companies, aforesaid, now in actual service, and not draughted in the first division, as aforesaid, shall be dismissed.

And it is further resolved, that the division on actual duty, shall be relieved monthly, in the order they shall be drawn out, by the other divisions; and that the field-officers and commanders, aforesaid, be, and they are hereby, directed to cause the relief to be made and done punctually, at the time each division shall have completed its monthly round of duty.

And it is further resolved, that the proper officers of each regiment or company, shall cause the fine of £5, lawful money, to be immediately exacted and collected, from all persons in each division, who, when called out to duty, shall be unprovided with arms and accoutrements by law required; except such persons as the town council of each town shall adjudge and return as unable to furnish themselves therewith.

And it is further resolved, that in case any officer or soldier, in each division, draughted, as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to appear at the time and place ordered by his respective superior officer or commander, either by himself, or a good, able bodied and suitable person in his stead, to enter upon and perform such military duty as shall be enjoined upon him, he shall be subjected to, and pay, such fines, forfeitures and penalties, as the military laws and regulations of this state direct in cases of general alarm.

And it is further resolved, that the pay of each private soldier, in service, as aforesaid, shall be two shillings per day; and that the pay of the several officers be in the same proportion, according to their several ranks and stations, as regulated by the laws for paying the militia, when

in actual service; and that the said officers and soldiers shall, when in actual service, be allowed and draw the same rations as those of the standing regiments, in the service of this state.

And it is further resolved, that the town councils of each town furnish such persons as they shall certify to be unable to furnish themselves, with arms, blankets and accoutrements, as by law required; and that the same be paid out of the general treasury.

And it is further resolved, that the colonel, or commanding officer of each regiment or company, as aforesaid, and the town clerks in the several towns, within this state, be immediately furnished by the secretary with a copy, hereof.

It is voted and resolved, that the form of the treasurer's notes to be given for the money ordered at this session to be hired, be varied; and that instead of ——— pounds, they be given for ——— dollars; and that no note be given for a less sum than $30.

It is voted and resolved, that the pay of the privates, in the regiment of artillery now raising, for the defence of this state, be at $11, per month.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith, as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £1,000, lawful money.

An Act establishing and regulating a general hospital, for the use of the army, within this state.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that a director and proveditor be appointed, to establish a general hospital or hospitals, as he shall judge necessary, for the service; and supply and provide medicines and instruments, therefor; and appoint the stewards and nurses, and their number *pro re nata;* and make every other provision appertaining to that department.

It is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a hospital surgeon be appointed; whose business will be, to superintend and take care of all the sick and wounded in the hospital or hospitals, to receive the weekly returns from the regimental surgeons, of all unfit for duty in their respective regiments, in barracks or tents; and to make regular, weekly returns, to the commander-in-chief, of the same; together with those unfit for duty, in the hospital or hospitals; that the exact state of the army, in that respect, may be known at all times.

It is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that regimental surgeons be appointed to each regiment.

That the director and hospital surgeon, or either of them, have power to examine, approbate and appoint the several hospital and regimental mates, and so many, from time to time as they shall judge necessary for the service; and that the director have one mate-assistant, of his own appointment.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

Officers of the Militia, &c., Chosen.

Daniel Cahoone, Esq., one of the council of war.

Doctor Jonathan Arnold, director and proveditor of the general hospital or hospitals, to be established in this state.

Isaac Center, hospital surgeon.

Stephen Wigneron, surgeon of Col. Tallman's regiment.

Joseph Joslyn, surgeon of Col. Stanton's regiment.

Jesse Maxson, Esq., lieutenant-colonel of the first regiment of militia, in Kings county, in the room of Joseph Stanton, Esq.

Thomas Sheffield, Esq., major of said regiment, in the room of Jesse Maxson, advanced.

Thomas Potter, Esq., lieutenant-colonel of the second regiment of militia, in Kings connty.

Asa Maxson, ensign of the third company of militia, in Westerly.

Vial Allin, captain of the company of militia, in Barrington, in the room of Thomas Allin.

Daniel Kinnicutt, lieutenant of said company, in the room of Vial Allen, advanced.

James Martin, ensign of said company, in the room of Daniel Kinnicutt, advanced.

Timothy Larcher, lieutenant; Lewis Larcher, master; William Davenport, quartermaster, of the row-galley Washington.

An Act to prevent monopolies and oppression, by excessive and unreasonable prices for many of the necessaries and conveniences of life; and for preventing engrossers, and for the better supply of our troops in the army with such necessaries as may be wanted.

Whereas, the committee appointed by the several states of New England, and now convened at Providence, in the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, for the purpose of regulating an army, for supporting the currency, affixing the prices of labor, goods, wares, merchandize, &c., have, amongst other things, reported as follows, viz.:

Report of the Committee to the General Assembly of Rhode Island, Regulating the Prices of Labor, Goods, Wares, Merchandize, &c.

"In Committee, December 31, 1776.

This committee, taking into consideration the unbounded avarice of many persons, by daily adding to the now most intolerably exorbitant price of every necessary and convenient article of life; and also the most extravagant price of labor in general, which at this time of distress, unless a speedy and effectual stop be put thereto, will be attended with the most pernicious and fatal consequences; as it not only disheartens and disaffects the soldiers, who have nobly entered into service for the best of causes, by obliging them to give such unreasonable prices for those things that are absolutely needful for their very existence, that their pay is not sufficient to subsist them; but is also very detrimental to the country in general.

Wherefore, it is recommended by this committee, that the rules and prices hereafter

enumerated, be affixed and settled within the respective states in New England, to wit:

Farming labor in the summer season, shall not exceed 3*s.* 4*d.*, per day; and so in the usual proportion at other seasons of the year; and the labor of mechanics and tradesmen, and other labor, to be computed according to the usages and customs that have heretofore been adopted and practised in different parts of the several states, compared with farming labor.

Wheat—Good, merchantable wheat shall not exceed the price of 7*s.* 6*d.*, per bushel, in any part of the states of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; and 6*s.* per bushel in any part of the state of Connecticut.

Rye—Good, merchantable rye shall not exceed the price of 4*s.* 6*d.*, per bushel, in any part of the states of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; and 3*s.* 6*d.* per bushel, in the state of Connecticut.

Indian Corn—Good, merchantable Indian corn shall not, in any part of the state of Massachusetts Bay, exceed 3*s.* 4*d.*, per bushel; in any part of the state of Connecticut, 3*s.* per bushel; and in the states of New Hampshire, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 3*s.* 6*d.* per bushel.

Wool—Good, merchantable, sheep's wool, shall not, in any part of the states of Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, exceed 2*s.* per lb.; nor in any part of the state of New Hampshire, 2*s.* 2*d.* per lb.

Pork—In any part of the state of Massachusetts Bay, shall not exceed the following prices:

Swine, weighing from five to seven score, 4*d.* per lb.; from seven to ten score, 4¼*d.*; all above ten score, 4½*d.* In any part of the state of Connecticut, it shall not exceed the following prices: swine, weighing from five to seven score, 3¼*d.*; from seven to ten score, 3½*d.*; all above ten score, 3¾*d.* In any part of the state of New Hampshire, it shall not exceed the following prices: swine, weighing from five to seven score, 4½*d.*; from seven to ten score, 4¾*d.*; all above ten score, 5*d.* In any part of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, it shall not exceed the following prices; swine, weighing from five to seven score, 3½*d.* per lb.; from seven to ten score, 4*d.*; all above ten score, 4½*d.*

Beef—Grass-fed beef of the best quality, in any part of the states of Massachsetts Bay, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, shall not exceed 3*d.* per lb.; and in the state of Connecticut, 24*s.* per hundred weight; and so in that proportion, in the said several states, for stall-fed beef, and likewise beef of an inferior quality.

Hides—Raw hides shall not exceed 3*d.* per lb., in any of said states.

Salt—Good, merchantable salt shall not exceed 10*s.* per bushel, in any part of the aforesaid states.

Rum—Good, merchantable West India rum shall not exceed 6*s.* 8*d.* per gallon, by the hogshead; 7*s.* 8*d.* by the single gallon; and 2*s.* by the quart; and so in proportion for smaller quantities, according to the old and accustomed usages for retailing smaller quantities, in any part of the said states; save allowing 1*d.* per gallon for every ten miles the same may be conveyed by land-carriage, from the first port of delivery, for the cost, charge and risk, in carrying the same. New England rum of the best quality, shall not exceed 3*s.* 10*d.* per gallon, by the hogshead; 4*s.* per gallon, by the barrel; 4*s.* 6*d.*, by the single gallon, at the ports and places where the same shall be first distilled (exclusive of the cask); and so in like proportion for smaller quantities; 1*d.* per gallon is allowed for every ten miles the same may be conveyed by land-carriage, from the first place of distilling, for the cost and risk in carrying the same.

Sugar—Best Muscovado sugar shall not exceed 54*s.* per hundred weight, by the hogshead; 60*s.* by the single hundred weight; and 8*d.* per lb. at the first port of delivery in

any of said states; and to allow 9*d.* per hundred weight, for every ten miles land-carriage.

Molasses—Of the best quality, shall not exceed 3*s.* 4*d.*, by the hogshead; 3*s.* 8*a.*, by the barrel, and 4*s.*, by the single gallon, at the first port of delivery, in any of the said states; allowing 1*d.* per gallon for every ten miles land-carriage that the same may be conveyed, as aforesaid.

Cheese—American manufactured cheese shall not exceed 6*d.* per lb., in any part of the said states.

Butter—Butter of the best quality, shall not exceed 10*d.* per lb., in any part of said states.

Peas—Peas shall not exceed 8*s.* per bushel, in any part of the said states.

Beans—Beans of the best quality, shall not exceed 6*s.* per bushel, in any part of the said states.

Potatoes—Commonly called Spanish potatoes, of the best sort, shall not, in the fall of the year, exceed 1*s.* 4*d.* per bushel; and not at any other season of the year exceed 2*s.* per bushel, in any part of the said states.

Stockings—Men's good yarn stockings shall not exceed 6*s.* per pair, in any of said states; and so in proportion for those of an inferior quality.

Shoes—Men's neats leather shoes, of the best common sort, shall not exceed 8*s.* per pair; and other shoes in proportion, according to their quality.

Salted Pork—Salted pork by the barrel, two hundred and twenty weight in each barrel, shall not, in the states of Massachusetts Bay, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, exceed £4 12*s.*; in the state of Connecticut, £4 4*s.*; and in the state of New Hampshire, £5, lawful money, per barrel.

Cotton—Cotton shall not exceed 3*s.* per lb., by the bag; and 3*s.* 8*d.*, by the single pound, in any of said states.

Oats—Good oats shall not exceed 2*s.* per bushel, in any of said states.

Flax—Good, well dressed merchantable flax shall not exceed 1*s.* per lb., in the states of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; and 10*d.* per lb., in the state of Connecticut.

Coffee—Good coffee shall not exceed 1*s.* 4*d.*, by the single pound, in any part of said states.

Tallow—Good, tried tallow shall not exceed 7½*d.* per lb., in any of the said states.

Tow-cloth—Good, yard-wide tow-cloth, in the several states, shall not exceed 2*s.* 3*d.*, per yard; and other tow-cloth in like proportion, according to the quality. Coarse linen to be valued after the rate and in proportion to tow-cloth, making the reasonable allowances for the same.

Flannels—Good, yard-wide, striped flannel, shall not exceed 3*s.* 6*d.* per yard, in any of the said states; and other flannels in proportion, according to their widths and qualities; and other woolen cloths in like proportion.

This committee, considering, that goods in general imported, have of late, owing to the unbounded avarice of some persons, been sold by wholesale, at the exorbitant advance of five and six hundred per cent. from the prime cost: and retailed out at the unreasonable profit of forty and fifty per cent., or more, in addition thereto, which has been the occasion of great oppression, especially to the poor consumer; to correct and rectify such exorbitances, do recommend that, notwithstanding the risk of a voyage to and from Europe, the high rate of insurance, the difficulty of procuring articles suitable for that market, the loss upon those exported, the increased expenses and length of the voyage, and the real necessity of importing many commodities from thence; the price of European goods, which have been or shall be imported; as also all such goods which have been or shall be brought into any of the said states, in any prize vessel, shall not exceed the following rates, which this committee is of opinion will allow but a reasonable profit to the adventurer:

Woolen goods, coarse linens, duck, ticklenburgs and oznabrigs, shall not be sold by wholesale at a higher rate than in the proportion of £275, sterling, for what cost £100, sterling, in Europe.

And not any other goods, wares or merchandize, imported from thence, or brought into any port in said states, in any prize vessel, shall be sold at wholesale, at a higher rate than in the proportion of £250, sterling, for what cost £100, sterling; excepting warlike and military stores, the prices of which, the committee is of opinion, ought not to be limited; but the retailers of such goods shall not sell them at a higher advance than twenty per cent., upon the wholesale price.

This committee further recommend, that the several legislative bodies within the said respective states, affix and ascertain the prices of wood, hay, pine boards, plank, joist, hoops, shingles, charcoal, tanned leather, cotton and linen cloths, mutton, veal and flour; and also the rate of carting, which can be better done in the several states, than by this committee.

It is further recommended to the respective legislatures, aforesaid, to regulate or prohibit vendues, and other public sales, in such manner as not to interfere with, but so as to enforce the several regulations recommended, as aforesaid.

And it is further recommended to the above mentioned states, to empower suitable persons in their respective states, to open any warehouses, stores, or other places, where goods are deposited, which are necessary for the use of the army or navy, and are withheld by monopolizers, engrossers, or others; and to take and apply such goods to the use, aforesaid, paying the owners, thereof, at the rates at which such goods are hereby valued; and in case the goods so taken, are not herein rated, at a reasonable appraisement, to be made by indifferent persons."

Wherefore, and upon due consideration had thereon,—

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the said report be, and the same is hereby, approved and enacted, so far as the price of labor, produce, goods, wares, merchandize and manufactures, are therein affixed.

And be it further enacted, that the following articles, not therein enumerated, shall not exceed the prices hereto affixed, to wit:

Further Enumeration of Prices, &c., Stated.

Turkies and dunghill fowls, 4½*d.*, per lb.; geese, 3*d.* per lb.; best mutton, 4*d.* per lb.; best veal, 4*d.* per lb.; and other in proportion to its quality.

Dinners at taverns, for travellers (not soldiers), of boiled and roast meat, with other articles equivalent, exclusive of wine, 1*s.* 6*d.*; suppers and breakfasts, 1*s.* each; lodging, 4*d.*

Good, rough-skinned potatoes, 2*s.* 6*d.* per bushel.

Walnut wood, 3*s.* per foot; oak wood, 2*s.* 6*d.* per foot.

Charcoal, 4*d.* per bushel, per load.

Hard Soap, 4½*d.* per lb.

English hay, in sea-port markets, for the use of the inhabitants or army, from £4

10*s.*, to £6, per ton, according to its quality; at other places, for the uses, aforesaid, £3, per ton, with allowance for carting.

Teaming work—The teamster finding himself and cattle, for one hand, with cart or wagon, one yoke of oxen, and a good draught-horse, or two yoke of oxen, 13*s.* per day; teaming to, and from, sea-port markets, and for the army, per ton per mile, for not more than one mile 4*s.*, for every mile, after the first mile out, 1*s.* 6*d.*

Horse-keeping, at sea-port towns per night, or twenty-four hours, 2*s.* 6d.

Horse-shoeing, all round, with steel corks, heel and toe, 6*s.*; ox-shoeing, and other blacksmith's work, in the same proportion.

Horse-hire, 4*d.* per mile.

Green calf-skins, 6*d.* per lb.; and tanned and curried skins, in the same proportion; tanned hides, 1*s.* 4*d.* per lb.

Ships' iron work—Weight-work, at 3*d.* per lb.; and all light work, in the same proportion, excepting cast iron.

Cotton and linen cloth, middling quality, yard-wide, 3*s.* 8*d.* per yard; and other qualities and widths, in proportion.

Boards—Clear eastern pine, £6, per thousand; merchantable do., £4 per do.; common country do., £3 12*s.* per do.; yellow pine do., £3 12*s.* per thousand.

Oak—Full inch oak boards, and joist end timber, £3, per thousand.

Hoops—Good hogshead, £4, per thousand.

Staves—White oak hogshead, £6, per thousand; do. red oak, £3, per do.; white oak barrel, £4, per do.; do. red oak, £2, per do.; heading proportioned in price to that of staves.

Tobacco—Good, merchantable, well cured tobacco, at 25*s.* per hundred weight; and 4*d.* per single pound.

Men's leather breeches, of the best sort of deer's leather, 42*s.* per pair; and boys' and other leather breeches at a like proportion, according to their quality.

Cocoa—Best cocoa, at £6 10*s.*, per hundred weight; and chocolate, 2*s.* per single pound.

House carpenters, finding themselves, 5*s.* per day.
Ship " " " 6*s.* "
Caulkers, " " 7*s.* "
Masons, " " 6*s.* 6*d.* per day.

Tailors, making a plain suit of best broadcloth clothes, 24*s.*; and their daily wages, the employer finding them, at 3*s.* per day.

Trucking, 1*s.* 6*d.* per hogshead; and other things in proportion.

Best beaver hats, at 42*s.*; best felt hats, at 8*s.*

Coopers, finding themselves, 5*s.* per day; setting and finding hogshead hoops, 3*d.* each; setting and finding barrel hoops, 2*d.*, each.

Barbers, for shaving, 3*d.*

Stone lime, 18*s.* per hogshead, of one hundred gallons, delivered at Providence.

Milk, from the 1st of May to the 1st of November, at 2*d.* per quart; and the other six months, at 3*d.* per quart.

Which prices are to be considered as the highest rates at which any of the before-mentioned articles are to be sold, or bought or done, in the several sea-ports or public market-places; and in all other places of this state, the said articles are to be estimated and rated according to the accustomed usages, in proportion to the prices in sea-ports and market-places, as aforesaid, unless where particular mention is made of a price at other places."

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person shall, at any vendue or public sale, for any

saleable article, give or bid at a greater or higher price than by this act is limited, he shall forfeit and pay the value of said article; one-half to, and for the use of, this state; and the other half to the informer, who shall sue for the same; and shall be deemed an enemy to his country, and be rendered incapable of sustaining any public office.

And be it further enacted, that if any person shall refuse to sell any of said goods, merchandize, &c., at the prices by this act limited, to be paid in the current paper bills emitted by the Continental Congress, or this state, and shall afterwards part with such goods, merchandize, &c., in exchange for other goods, merchandize, &c., he shall forfeit and pay the value of such goods, merchandize, &c.; one-half to, and for the use of, this state, and the other half to the informer or prosecutor.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that His Honor the Governor, any and either of the assistants, judges of the superior and inferior courts, or any two justices of the peace, within this state, be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed, that upon complaint, under oath, that any article or articles of necessary support, for the army or navy, may be wanted, and are withheld by monopolizers, engrossers or others, to issue his warrant to any sheriff or deputy sheriff, constable or town sergeant, to impress and seize the same out of their hands; and for that purpose, to break open and enter any warehouses or stores, or other places, where such goods are deposited, and to have the same appraised by two indifferent, judicious men, under oath, appointed for that purpose, not exceeding the prices affixed by this act, which price so affixed, shall be paid to the owner or owners, thereof; and that suitable persons, in addition to the commissaries already appointed, be appointed by the council of war of this state, to furnish and supply the army raised by this state with necessaries, upon the most reasonable terms, agreeably to the encouragement given by this Assembly; and the commissaries of this state, and all other persons, are hereby requested, and strictly en-

joined and directed, to make information against all such persons as they shall find buying up or engrossing the articles, aforesaid, contrary to the intent and meaning of said act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whoever shall contract, or receive for labor, or vend, sell, or receive for any of the above enumerated articles, more than at the above rate or price thereunto affixed, or for others not enumerated, in an unreasonable disproportion thereto, shall be accounted oppressive, an enemy to his country, guilty of a breach of this act, and shall be liable to be prosecuted before any of the courts of record within this state, by bill, plaint, or information; and upon conviction, shall be fined for every article sold, of the price of twenty shillings or under, the sum of twenty shillings; and for every article of a price above twenty shillings, a sum equal to the price of such articles; together with all costs of prosecution; and shall stand committed till sentence be performed; one-half of said fine to be paid into the general treasury; and the other half, to the informer or prosecutor.

And be it further enacted, that this act shall take effect, and be in full force, upon Tuesday, the 8th day of January, A. D. 1777; and that the same be forthwith published, and sent to the respective town clerks of this state, to be by them read in the first town meeting of their respective towns.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Joseph Stanton, Jr., have liberty to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for paying the bounty allowed to the soldiers, who shall enlist into the regiments ordered by this Assembly to be raised.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., as one of the committee of safety, be, and hereby is, empowered to draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £600, lawful money.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Sylvester Gardner be,

and he is hereby, appointed to supply the wood necessary for the use of the troops in Kings county.

It is voted and resolved, that Peter Phillips, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £300, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Tunis Montayne, of the island of Bermuda, be permitted to purchase a vessel within this state, to proceed to said island of Bermuda; and that he have liberty to take with him his two apprentices and negro boy; and as much provision as will be necessary for said voyage, under the direction of Mr. Jacob Greene.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith be, and he is hereby, appointed to purchase a sufficient quantity of hay for the use of the horses and cattle, now in the town of Providence, in the service of this state, for one week.

Whereas, the committee appointed to inquire into the allowance of provisions and necessaries to the soldiers, in the Continental service, presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

Amount of Rations, &c., Allowed to the Soldiers, by the Continental Congress.

Rations established by the Continental Congress, with variations made by Peter Phillips and Jabez Bowen, Esqs.; and approved by the honorable the commissioners of the four New England states, viz.:

One pound of wheat bread, or one pound of flour, or one pound-and-an-half of brown bread, per man, per day.

One pound-and-a-quarter of beef, or one pound of pork, per man, per day; or, one pound of beef and one pound of pork, for two days.

Three pints of beans or peas, per man, per week.

Eight pounds of hard soap, per hundred men, per week, including guards, &c.

Six pounds candles, per hundred men, per week, including guards, &c.

One quart of beer per day, per man; or nine gallons of molasses, or three-quarters of a hundred of sugar, per hundred men, per week; or in lieu thereof, one gill of rum, per man, per day.

Six ounces of butter per man, per week; or the real price, in cash.

One gill of rice; or one pint of Indian meal per man, per week.

Half a gill of rum, per man, per day, when on fatigue.

Two quarts of salt for every hundred pounds of fresh beef served out.

Vinegar occasionally.

Submitted by your humble servants,

PETER PHILLIPS, } Com-
JABEZ BOWEN, } mittee.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; that the above and foregoing regulation be, and the same is hereby, approved of and established, as the rations to be allowed to the troops, raised within this state; any other act to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Simeon Clarke be requested to give notice to Mr. Nathan Kinyon, to attend the next session of this Assembly, to answer the complaint of Lieut. John Clarke; and that he also cite the said John Clarke to attend, at the same time, with such evidences as he shall see fit to bring with him, to support his complaint.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Congdon, 3d, be, and he is hereby, appointed one of the committee of safety, in the room of Col. Joseph Stanton, Jr.; and that the said Joseph Stanton, Jr., be, and he is hereby, empowered to apply the money, in his hands, belonging to this state, to the purpose for which he received it.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith, one of the

committee of safety, furnish Col. Jabez Bowen with £60, lawful money, taking his receipt therefor, to be paid out to the soldiers of the militia, in such proportions as the commanding officer, and captains at Warwick Neck, shall think proper, towards their pay; and that abstracts be made out by the captains, as soon as may be, and certified by the colonels, or respective commanding officers of the regiments of militia on duty, within this state, to some certain time for payment; and that application be made therefor, to the committees of safety.

It is voted and resolved, that brigadier general Malmedy be, and he is hereby, empowered to execute all and every plan he shall think necessary, for the fortifying this state, consistent with the number of men that this and the other states have, or shall furnish; and to remove the cannon from such places as he may think are in danger of the enemy, and to place them at such places as he shall think proper.

That the Generals Varnum and West be requested to forward such works, and to afford him all the assistance in their power, by men, and otherwise; that the cannon he may want, be fitted and prepared as soon as possible, with such carriages as he shall require; and that the council of war give every necessary assistance for pursuing such plan.

Both houses being resolved in grand committee, chose Thomas Holden quartermaster of the brigade now raising for the defence of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that a surgeon be appointed for the regiment of the train of artillery, now raising for the defence of this state.

Whereas, it is suggested to this Assembly, that, at the late alarm, when the militia and alarm-men, of this state, were ordered into service, many of them neglected or refused to appear; and of those who did appear, many absented themselves without leave, and deserted the service; which misconduct is not only of evil example and destructive of due order and discipline, but of the greatest ill con-

sequence to the general safety; and therefore merits a particular attention,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, advised to issue his orders, as commander-in-chief of this state, to the colonels and field officers of each respective regiment, ordering and directing them to call courts martial within their respective counties, who shall have before them, hear, try, and pass upon, all persons within their regiments, offending, as aforesaid; and inflict such pains and penalties upon the offenders, as the said courts shall judge adequate to their offences, agreeably to the martial and military laws in force, in this state, at the time they committed the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Brown be, and he is hereby, empowered to purchase, at public or private sale, such and so many of the warlike stores, taken out of the prize ship Friendship, as he may think necessary for the use of this state, if the same shall be sold at reasonable prices.

It is voted and resolved, that James Arnold, Jr., Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to procure two field-carriages, to be made for the two guns now at Warwick Neck; and that he have liberty to employ any persons of the militia, that may be called into actual service, to execute that business.

It is voted and resolved, that from and after the 29th day of December, A. D. 1776, the sum of nine shillings, lawful money, be allowed to each of the members of the upper and lower house of Assembly, for each day's attendance on said Assembly.

That upon the members of the upper house producing a certificate from the secretary; and the members of the lower house from the clerk, of said house, of the number of days of their attendance, to the general treasurer, that he pay for each day's attendance, at the rate, aforesaid, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Glazier be, and he

is hereby, appointed forthwith to make a field-carriage, for the nine-pound cannon, now at East Greenwich.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathan Miller be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £300, lawful money, out of the general treasury; one-half, thereof, to be paid in notes, and the other half, in bills heretofore emitted.

It is voted and resolved, that Joseph Clarke, Esq., purchase a suitable book, for entering the charges of this state, against the United States.

It is voted and resolved, that the standing committee adjust the accounts of this state, with the United States, up to the 1st day of January, A. D. 1777, exclusive of the moneys that may be advanced in raising and equipping the three regiments, ordered to be raised by this Assembly, for fifteen months; and that they make report to the council of war as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Stephen Mumford, as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £700, lawful money, out of the general treasury; £300, thereof, to be paid in notes, and the remainder, in bills heretofore emitted.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety, in Kings county, settle the billeting of the troops within that county, and the keeping of the horses in the troop stationed within said county; and that they allow one shilling and ninepence per night, for keeping each horse.

It is voted and resolved, that it be recommended to Mr. Daniel Tillinghast, Continental agent within this state, that he furnish the soldiers, enlisted by Capt. Jonathan Wallen, into the Continental service, with the clothing they may be in immediate want of; and that Capt. Wallen place such of them, as he shall think fit, on board the Continental frigates, until he is ready to proceed with them, to join the army.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith pay to John Bates $60, for a mare, purchased of him for the use of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Joseph Belcher, John Mathewson, Daniel Rodman and Gideon Mumford, Esqs., and Mr. Nathan Miller, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to inquire what towns were deficient in raising their quotas of the regiment ordered to be raised from the militia, for three months; and the causes for such deficiency; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that every member of either house of Assembly, who shall leave the house, after business is begun, without leave of the house, therefor, shall forfeit the whole of his wages that shall accrue to him, at the same session.

It is voted and resolved, that Caleb Harris, Esq., inspect the powder in the possession of Mr. John Waterman, belonging to this state; and if the same be approved by him, that he remove the same to such places as he shall think most safe.

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Rodman, Esq., be appointed to inquire of William Potter, Esq., if he has received of Mr. Silas Niles the back rents of the farm at Point Judith, leased to him by this state, and the rents due for the other estates in Kings county, leased by this state; and if he has not received the same, and his health will not admit of his transacting said business, that the said Daniel Rodman be, and he is hereby, empowered to receive the rents due to this state, from the said Silas Niles, and from the other persons to whom said estates have been leased; and that he pay the same into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Congdon, 3d, as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, in notes; he first giving sufficient security.

Whereas, the committees from the several New England states, now convened in the town of Providence, have recommended to the said states, that no further emissions of paper money bills be made, but that the several treasuries

be supplied by taxes, and by borrowing the necessary sums, to be re-paid in three years, or sooner, from their date, with an interest not exceeding five per cent. per annum; unless upon a critical contingency, there may be an absolute necessity of an immediate supply, and the money cannot be procured upon loan; in which case, it is recommended that bills be emitted, redeemable in three years, or sooner, with an interest of four per cent. per annum; and that the state emitting the same, notify the other states of such emission; and also that the several states forthwith levy such taxes upon the inhabitants as their abilities will bear; and that the several states call in the bills of credit, at the expiration of the periods for which they were severally emitted, in the best manner they can devise, to give a reasonable and just satisfaction to the possessors of the bills; wherefore—

It is voted and resolved, that the said recommendation be, and the same is hereby, approved; and that this state will, to the utmost of their power, make the same the rule of their conduct in future, in supplying the treasury of this state; and for supporting, in the most effectual manner, the credit of the paper bills.

It is voted and resolved, that the judge of the court, erected for the trial of maritime causes, be, and he is hereby, empowered to appoint a suitable person, who shall be, and he is hereby, fully empowered to attend upon said court, in the capacity of special sheriff for the county of Providence, at the court this day appointed to be held in said town of Providence; and until the causes then and there appointed to be tried, shall be heard and determined, with full power to empannel a jury for the trial of said causes; and in general, to do, act and transact, every other matter and thing, by order of said court, which the sheriff might do, if present.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit to the Continental Congress, the account of this state against the Continent; and request that, for the balance, an order be

drawn by the Congress upon Joseph Clarke, Esq., keeper of their loan office within this state; and that if the money be not in said office, the Congress give order to their keeper of said office, to issue notes in favor of this state, for the amount of the balance, upon interest, at four per cent. per annum.

Both houses, in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

Officers Chosen for the Militia.

Benjamin Church, captain in Col. Tallman's regiment, in the room of Reuben Wightman, who declined serving.

Amos Whipple, captain; Nathaniel Gould, lieutenant; Abraham Cook, Jr., ensign, of the company of militia, in the town of Cumberland.

It is voted and resolved, that the colonels, or commanding officers of the several regiments, order the captains of each company therein, immediately to see that the men, belonging to their companies, are served with seventeen rounds of cartridges to each man, well fitted to his piece; and that each man give his receipt to the captain, therefor; and that he also provide seventeen rounds more for each man, which he shall see well suited to his piece, as aforesaid, and tied in bunches, marked with the name of each man; which last mentioned cartridges, the captain of each company shall keep in his own possession, and cause them to be carried with their companies, wherever they shall be ordered to march.

That the colonels or other commanding officers, apply to the town treasurers of the towns within their regiments, for powder and lead, to make said cartridges, giving receipts for what they shall receive; and in case of deficiency, that they apply to this Assembly; or, in their recess, to the council of war, of this state, for further supplies.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., purchase of Col. Robert Elliott, the musket-ball, he has to dis-

pose of, for Kings county; and that he also be supplied with six hundred weight of lead, heretofore purchased by this state, for the same county.

Whereas, Mr. Joseph Rhodes presented unto this Assembly, an account charged by him against the state, for victuals, liquors, fire and candles, provided for twelve prisoners and their guards, on their way from Providence to Pawtuxet; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £2 13*s.*, lawful money, be paid unto the said Joseph Rhodes, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Daniel Tillinghast, the Continental agent within this state, be, and he is hereby, requested to deliver the arms and blankets, now in his possession, belonging to the United States, to such persons as shall have orders for the same, from the commanding officers of the regiments ordered to be raised by this Assembly for fifteen months.

It is voted and resolved, that the town of Little Compton be permitted to take two field-pieces, mounted on carriages; one, of the smallest, and one six or four-pounder, from Howland's Ferry; together with the accoutrements thereunto belonging, with so many cartridges as the commanding officer there, may think proper; and that said town be accountable therefor, to this state.

And it is also further voted and resolved, that the town clerk of said town be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw half a hundred weight of powder, and one hundred and fifty pounds of lead, and five hundred flints, for the use of the soldiers in said town.

Whereas, it is represented unto this Assembly, that the arms and accoutrements, belonging to several companies in the regiment under the command of Col. Richmond, were deposited in the Continental store, in New London, or Stonington, in Connecticut;—

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Congdon, 3d, be,

and he is hereby, appointed to remove said arms and accoutrements from said Stonington, or New London, to Charlestown, in Kings county; that he deliver the one-half thereof, to John Northup, Esq.; and that he retain the remainder, to be distributed by them among the troops that may enlist in the regiments now ordered by this Assembly to be raised.

It is voted and resolved, that Enoch Butts be immediately removed by the sheriff of the county of Providence, or his deputy, to the town of Cumberland, there to continue at his own expense, until further orders from this Assembly; or, in their recess, from the council of war.

And that if he shall leave said town, without permission first had from this Assembly, or, in their recess, from said council of war, the sheriffs and their deputies within this state are hereby directed forthwith to apprehend and commit him to the jail in the county in which he may be apprehended.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith procure, for the use of Brigadier General Malmedy, two convenient rooms, in the house of the widow Elizabeth Arnold, and furnish said rooms with such furniture as he shall think proper, of the goods now in his care, lately belonging to Mr. Dudley, and procure such other articles as he may judge necessary for that purpose.

That he also procure for him the barn and stables belonging to said house; and assign him such attendants as shall be suitable for doing the services of the house, and for taking care of his horses; and that he furnish the necessary supplies of provisions, fuel and forage, whenever Gen. Malmedy shall be in town.

It is voted and resolved, that each of the members of the council of war be allowed, in future, nine shillings for each day's attendance, as members of said council; and that upon their producing a certificate, from the clerk of said council, to the treasurer, of the number of days of their attendance,

they be paid at, and after the rate, aforesaid, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. James Sumner exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the state, for his service, as an engineer, in laying out lines for the works of defence erecting in and about the town of Providence; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £12, lawful money, be paid unto the said James Sumner, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Sumner be, and he is hereby, appointed an assistant engineer within this state, with the rank, pay and rations, of a captain; and that he be commissionated accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the committees of safety collect the guns and accoutrements, within their respective districts, belonging to this state, and remove them to places of safety; and that they make report of the number of guns, to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that on the day for draughting the regiments of militia, and independent companies of this state, into three divisions, agreeably to an act passed at this session, the commanding officers of the independent companies, in the town of Providence, shall meet together, and draught for their turns by compauies; and do duty, and relieve each other, in the order in which they shall be drawn; and the commanding officers of the independent companies of Pawtuxet Rangers, Kentish Guards and Kingston Reds, shall meet on said day, and draught for turns, and do duty by companies, as those in Providence; any thing contained in the aforesaid act, to the contrary, notwithstanding; and that the commanders of the aforesaid companies be each furnished with a copy, hereof, immediately.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith be, and he is hereby, empowered to purchase a quantity of fish, on

board a brigantine about to be purchased for the use of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £318, lawful money, be allowed to Mr. John Brown, for the brigantine Sally, purchased of him by Mr. Joseph Brown, to be made use of as a fire-ship for the service of this state; and upon his delivering to the said Joseph Brown, for the use of this state, all the stores belonging to said brig, that the sum, aforesaid, be paid him, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, the committees from the four New England states, have passed the following resolve, to wit:

Resolve of the Committee of the Four New England States, at their Meeting in Providence, December 30th, 1776.

"In Committee, December 30th, 1776.

This committee, taking into consideration the bounties and allowances, offered by Congress, for enlisting the Continental battalions, appointed as the quota of the four New England states, are of opinion, that, in the present situation of the aforesaid states, it is impracticable to fill those battalions, without giving a still further encouragement to men to enlist; and that it is of the utmost necessity to complete them with all possible dispatch; and the said states having given different encouragement in their several states, for filling the said battalions; and this committee being of opinion, that if the said states act upon one uniform plan, it will be attended with many advantages,—

Do resolve, that it be recommended to the several legislatures of the said states, to give an additional bounty of £10, and a blanket, each year, while in service, as aforesaid; or in lieu, thereof, eighteen shillings to the encouragement given by Congress to the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, who shall enlist into the said battalions, for three years, or during the war, and to engage to supply them, while in camp, with those articles necessary for soldiers, which are not furnished by Congress, at the rates affixed to those articles by the several New England states, without any charge for transportation, or other expenses; which is considered by this committee as a greater encouragement to the soldiers, than hath been offered by any of the said states."

Upon consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that this state will give an additional bounty of £4, to the £6, heretofore allowed by this Assembly, and a blanket, each year, while in service; or, in lieu, thereof, eighteen shillings, to the encouragement given by Congress, to the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, who shall enlist into the battalions ordered to be

raised by this Assembly, agreeably to the recommendation from the Honorable the Continental Congress.

And this Assembly doth hereby engage to supply them, while in camp, with those articles, necessary for soldiers, which are not furnished by Congress, at the rates affixed to those articles, by the several New England states, without any charge for transportation.

Whereas, this Assembly hath passed a resolve, for draughting all male persons, subject by law to bear arms, whether of the militia, alarm-list, or independent companies, in three divisions; and whereas, the committees, from the four New England states, have passed a resolve, recommending that the militia of the said states, when called into the same service, be placed upon the same footing, in point of encouragement, wages and rations,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, who shall be draughted, as aforesaid, shall be allowed and paid, when called into actual service, the bounty of twenty shillings, lawful money; and that they be allowed and paid, while in actual service, the same wages that those of equal rank in the Continental army are allowed and paid; and the rations that are allowed those of equal rank in the standing regiments of this state.

And it is further voted and resolved, that so much of said resolve, as respects the wages and rations of the officers and soldiers who shall be draughted, as aforesaid, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the colonel, or commanding officer of each regiment, or company, as aforesaid, be immediately furnished with a copy hereof.

It is voted and resolved, that the row-galley, now at Providence, be ordered forthwith to proceed to Pawtuxet, and there receive the orders of Commodore Esek Hopkins; and that a twelve-pound cannon be forthwith removed from Pawtuxet to Warwick Neck.

It is voted and resolved, that Nathaniel Hamlinton, Rich-

ard Rogers and Lemuel Conants, deserters from the British service, be allowed and paid, each £3, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for a boat purchased of them.

Whereas, the committee of the four New England states, now sitting, presented to this Assembly, the following resolve, to wit:

Additional Resolve of the Committee of the Four New England States, Convened in Providence, in December, 1776.

Whereas, the militia of the several states of New England may be frequently called into the same service; and many inconveniences may be prevented, by their being placed upon the same footing, in point of encouragement, wages and rations,—

Resolved, that it be recommended to the several states, aforesaid, that whenever the militia of said states, or either of them, shall be called into service, for any term less than two months, that the officers and soldiers be allowed and paid the same wages and rations, that those of equal rank in the Continental army are allowed and paid.

And that it be further recommended, where the militia shall be called out for a term more than two, and not exceeding four months, that the non-commissioned officers and soldiers be paid a bounty of twenty shillings; and where the term of their service shall amount to five, and shall not exceed six months, that the non-commissioned officers and soldiers be paid a bounty of forty shillings, over and above the Continental pay and rations; provided they shall voluntarily enlist into such service; otherwise that they have, and receive, the Continental wages and rations only, without any bounty, as aforesaid."

Upon consideration, whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the above recommendation be, and the same is hereby, approved; and that the officers and soldiers of the militia, of this state, when called into actual service, be allowed the encouragement, wages and rations, in said resolve specified.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the inhabitants of this state, who are possessed of cannon, warlike stores and sails, that they forthwith remove them to places of safety; and that if they shall neglect to do it, the commanding officers within this state are hereby directed to cause the same to be removed.

It is voted and resolved, that all non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, who have enlisted into the standing regiments of this state; the battalion men under the en-

couragement of £3, lawful money, per month; and the artillery men, of £3 6*s.*, per month, and will continue, and re-enlist into said service, the battalion men upon the pay of £2, per month, and the artillery men of £2 4*s.*, per month, shall be paid an additional bounty hereafter mentioned.

And all those who will not re-enlist, as aforesaid, upon the encouragement of forty shillings for the battalion men, and forty-four shillings for the artillery men, per month; and will re-pay, to the officers who enlisted them, all such moneys as they may have received, either for bounty or wages, shall thereupon be discharged; and if any enlisted soldier shall be unable to re-pay said moneys, and will not re-enlist, as aforesaid, he shall be retained in service upon the terms of his enlistment, until his wages shall amount to the moneys he may have received; allowing for each month over and above his wages, one-fifteenth part of the bounty received.

And it is further voted and resolved, that each person enlisting as a soldier in the service of this state, after three days from the rising of this Assembly, shall be paid, over and above the bounty for enlisting, mentioned in the act for raising them, an additional bounty of clothing; of one uniform coat, three pair of woolen hose, two pair of shoes, one hat, and two shirts; and be entitled to wages, the battalion men, at the rate of £2, per month; and the artillery men, £2 4*s.*, per month; to be paid them, agreeably to the terms for the payment of wages, in said act mentioned.

And it is further voted and resolved, and this state do engage, that every enlisted soldier in the service of this state, shall be supplied with the necessaries and conveniences of life, at the prices and rates affixed by the act made at this session of Assembly, for affixing the prices and rates at which goods shall be bought and sold, within this state.

And it is further voted and resolved, that so much of the act for raising two battalions, and a regiment of the train,

for the service of this state, &c., passed at this present session, as relates to the monthly wages of the soldiers, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Both houses in a grand committee, chose the following officers, viz.:

Officers Chosen for the Spitfire Row-galley, and the Militia.

Isaac Tyler, captain; Josiah Simmons, first lieutenant; Abel Weathers, second lieutenant, of the row-galley Spitfire.

Joseph Fuller, ensign, of the fourth company of militia, in Providence, in the room of David Bacon, chosen a lieutenant in Col. Tallman's regiment.

It is voted and resolved, that James Arnold, Jr., Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to purchase of Mr. Richard Greene, the corn, oats, rye, pork and sheep, he has on hand, for the use of this state, and to remove the same to places of safety; and that if the said Richard Greene shall refuse to dispose of said articles to this state, the said James Arnold be empowered to take the same, allowing him, therefor, at the prices affixed by this Assembly; and all civil and military officers are hereby required to aid and assist him in the execution of this business.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war be, and they are hereby, requested to employ couriers to proceed from this place to Connecticut and New Hampshire, agreeably to the recommendations of the committee from the four New England states.

This General Assembly taking into consideration a letter from John Northup, Esq., to His Honor the Governor, informing him that Thos. Freebody, by permission from Gen. Clinton, had sent over with a flag of truce, from Newport, seventeen women and ten children, who were landed in North Kingstown; and also enclosing a copy of a letter from the said Thomas Freebody, to the said John Northup,

acquainting him that a number of other women and children in Newport, have passes from General Clinton, to come to the main land for subsistence, and desiring to know whether boats will be allowed to bring them to Updike's Newtown, that they may be subsisted upon the main land,—

Do resolve, that John Northup, Sylvester Gardner and Thomas Bissell, or any two of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to make inquiry into the connexions of the said women and children, already landed; and in case it shall appear that any of them are mothers, wives, sisters or children, to persons in the service of this, or any of the United States, or in the Continental service, that such persons be received and supported at the expense of this state, in such places as the said committee shall think fit, until further orders from this Assembly.

That such of the said women and children as are related to any person in this state, who is obliged by law to maintain them, be also received, and sent, as soon as may be, to the persons so obliged to maintain them; that the others be returned to Newport by the flag which brought them.

That the said John Northup be directed to inform the said Thomas Freebody, that no poor women and children will be received from the town of Newport, unless previous permission be obtained from the General Assembly, or, in the recess of it, from the council of war; and that the boat, which brought the said poor, with the officer and crew, be detained until the committee shall make inquiry, and determine, as aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the proceedings of the committee from the New England states be, and the same are hereby, approved; and that the same be adopted by this state, so far as relates thereto.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Ward and Jonathan Arnold, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to transmit, as soon as possible, to the Honorable the Continental Congress, a fair copy of the whole proceedings

of the committee from the New England states; and that they also assign the reasons of the meeting of said committee.

It is voted and resolved, that agreeably to the recommendation of the committee, from the four states of New England, that the last Wednesday of January instant, be observed as a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, throughout this state; that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to issue a proclamation accordingly; and that all servile labor and recreation be forbidden on that day.

It is voted and resolved, that one hundred and twenty copies of the resolution of this Assembly, altering the bounty and wages of the three regiments now raising within this state, be immediately printed; and that Theodore Foster, Esq., procure the same to be done, and to forward to some one of the field-officers, in each regiment, twenty copies; and to each of the members of the committee of safety, seven copies thereof; to be by them distributed amongst the officers in said regiments as soon as possible.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury:

Bills to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Richard Smith, for distributing proclamations for a fast, in the county of Bristol, removing stock from the island of Prudence, &c.	2	05	00
William Channing, for his expenses and services as assistant clerk, at several sessions of the General Assembly	5	19	06
Thomas Hubbart, for his time and expenses, in carrying a warrant to Col. Brown, at West Greenwich, to call together his regiment in consequence of an alarm		13	06
Josias Lyndon, for his expenses in attending at several sessions of the General Assembly, as clerk of the lower house	6	06	00
Stephen Harding, for his expenses in going express to Boston	2	14	00
Gideon Mumford, one of the standing committee of audit, for his time and expenses in attending the General Assembly, at Little Rest	3	13	06
Benjamin Medbury, for his time and expenses in notifying the members of the General Assembly, in the county of Providence, to convene at East Greenwich	2	00	00

John Carter, for printing proclamations for a fast, and various acts of the General Assembly 30 10 00
John Fenner, for his time and expenses, in numbering the inhabitants of the town of Johnston 2 05 00
Thomas Wells, for his time and expenses, in taking an account of the number of inhabitants of the town of Hopkinton 3 12 00
Shearjashub Bourne, for his services in taking an account of the number of inhabitants in the town of Bristol 1 16 00
George Peirce, for his time and expenses in numbering the inhabitants of the town of Exeter 3 03 00
Benjamin Underwood, for services and expenses in taking an account of the number of inhabitants in Jamestown 18 00
James Congdon, 3d, for his time and expenses in going express to Gov. Trumbull 3 19 00
William Willson Pollock, for his time and expenses in carrying orders to the captains in Col. Sands's regiment 2 13 00
William Stevens, for his time and expenses in carrying warrants from the Governor to the several colonels of militia in the county of Providence. 2 14 00
Martin Seamans and Theodore Foster, for their time and expenses in taking an account of the number of inhabitants in the town of Providence 3 14 00
Daniel Rodman, for his expenses to New London, to negotiate for an exchange of prisoners 5 18 04
Daniel Rodman for his time, horse-hire and expenses, in going to New London, to watch the enemy's fleet 4 02 00
William Turner Miller, for his time in taking the number of inhabitants in the town of Warren 1 10 00
Ephraim Westcott, for his time and expenses taking an account of the number of inhabitants in the town of Coventry 3 00 00
William Stevens, for his time and expenses, to Newport and South Kingstown, to notify the committee, appointed to act in the recess of the General Assembly, to meet at Providence, in September last 2 16 00
William Stevens, for his time and expenses, in going express to Lebanon and Hartford, to Governor Trumbull 5 14 00
William Stevens, for his time and expenses, in going express from the Governor, to the General Court, at Boston 3 10 00
Nicholas Cooke, for part of the cargo, and sundry disbursements, on the sloop Diamond, fitted out for the government 86 18 04
Rouse J. Helme, for his services in preparing the acts and orders of the General Assembly for the press; and as clerk to the council of war, &c. 32 13 00
Joseph Clarke, for superintending the printing of paper-bills 3 00 00
Cromel Child, for materials and labor on the flat-bottomed boats, ordered to be built for the service of the government 161 09 02
Benjamin Mumford, for his time and expenses in going from Newport to Westerly; and for two journeys from Newport to Providence, by order of John Collins, Esq., and Col. Cooke 5 17 00
Nathaniel Mumford, one of the standing committee of audit, for his expenses at Providence, in examining a number of accounts, and for attending on the General Assembly 5 11 00
Doctor Amos Throop, for sundry medicines delivered to Mr. Jacob Greene, for the use of the state 4 14 06
James Arnold, for keeping the horses of a troop from Connecticut, under Capt. Hall 19 11 04

Benjamin Larned, for expenses of himself and eight men, and their horses, as a guard for ten prisoners, sent to Worcester jail 45 06 00
John Brown, for provisions, liquors, &c., supplied by him, for the use of the troops stationed within this state 438 08 4½
Thomas Church, Esq., for his time and expenses, to Watertown, on public business; to New London, to negotiate an exchange of prisoners; and for cash paid Jonathan Brooks, for going express from New London to East Greenwich, to give information of the arrival there, of a flag from Lord Howe 13 09 05
John Lassell, for two-and-three-quarter loads of hay, supplied by him for the use of General Lincoln's baggage-teams..... ... . 24 15 00
Nicholas Cooke, for sixty-five barrels of flour, delivered to Commissary Aborn, for the use of the troops 181 15 01
Rouse J. Helme, for his attendance as clerk to the committee from the four states of New England 30 00

God save the United States of America.

Gen. Lee to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Pompton, 7th December, 1776.

Dear Sir:—As there is now no doubt of the enemy's directing a considerable force towards your island, my duty to the public, and my regard for the welfare of your colony, in particular, urge me to every expedient which may be serviceable to you; and I must entreat you not to impute the freedom with which I shall offer my thoughts upon this occasion, to a petulance of disposition, but to the most pure and disinterested zeal.

I have, sir, from what I have observed of the New England troops, the highest confidence in the valor of your men and common run of your officers, particularly those who are of the younger part. They have activity and fire; and in general, more knowledge than those advanceed in years, who are not only destitute of knowledge, but incapable, from a certain rustiness of mind and temper, of acquiring any. In fact, the only advantage of years in any profession is, that it enables us to add to our stock of knowledge. But if we do not avail ourselves of the days which nature has made a present of to us for this purpose, the more years have passed over our heads, the more disqualified are we, for the profession of a soldier, of any rank.

Now it unfortunately happens in New England, that to the most disqualified the highest trusts are committed. To speak directly, the appointments of generals in your provinces, threaten destruction; but in fact, it is impossible that you should have men equal to this arduous task. Theory joined to practice, or a heaven-born genius, can alone constitute a general. As to the latter, God Almighty indulges the modern world very rarely with the spectacle; and I do not know, from what I have seen, that he has been more profuse of this ethereal spirit to the Americans, than to other nations.

But to come to the point: Rhode Island will probably be attacked; your men and younger officers are good; but I am persuaded you have no man with you, capable of conducting an army; no man who has sufficient knowledge as an engineer. I have therefore resolved to send a gentleman, with whose great talents, activity and zeal I am well acquainted. His name is Malmedy, a Frenchman. I entreat, if you cannot give him the entire command, to be directed by his counsels. You must excuse

his heat of temper at times, as it is derived from a noble source of enthusiasm for your cause. Procure from him an able interpreter; and treat him, as I am sure you will, with all the respect and attention he deserves. God bless you, sir.

Believe me to be, most devotedly, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

To Governor Gooke.

P. S. I believe I shall send you Colonel Varnum; but I hope you will continue to give Mr. Malmedy high colonial rank, which will lead him to Continental.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.

Providence, December 8th, 1776,
Past 10 o'clock, P. M.

Sir:—It is with great concern, I give you the disagreeable intelligence that the enemy, with a fleet consisting of seventy-eight ships-of-war and transports, entered the harbor of Newport, yesterday.

We had about six hundred men upon Rhode Island, who were obliged to evacuate it, with the loss of about fifteen or twenty heavy cannon; having taken off the ammunition and stores, and the greatest part of the stock. The enemy have full possession of the island.

I am informed by General West and Lieutenant Barron, of the Providence, that they landed this morning, about eight o'clock, with eight thousand men, who marched in three divisions; one towards Newport, the second towards Howland's Ferry, and the third to Bristol Ferry; where they arrived time enough to fire upon the boats that brought over our last men, but without doing damage.

I have sent repeated expresses to the Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut. The forces of the former are upon the march, as I believe the latter are, also. In great haste. I am Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

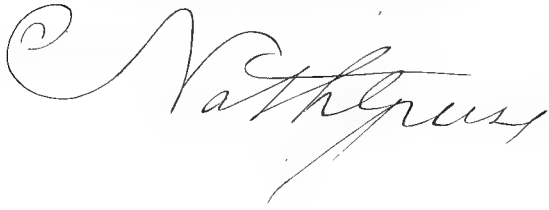
Camp above Trenton Falls,
December 21st, 1776.

Sir:—I have been honored with your favor of the 8th instant. The loss of Rhode Island gives me much concern, though an event that could not be well guarded against.

I am happy that most of the stock had been removed; and wish the cannon could have also been brought away, our want of them being great, by reason of our late losses. Notwithstanding this descent, and the intelligence of more ships going down the Sound, I cannot persuade myself that the enemy will attempt any thing capital upon the main; they will most probably confine themselves to the island. But if they have other views, I trust that the succors from the two neighboring states, with your own force, will be able to baffle their most vigorous efforts, and prevent the progress of their arms. It would give me infinite pleasure if the situation of our affairs in this quarter, would allow me to afford you the assistance I could wish; but it will not. All in my power to do, I have done.

Upon the first intelligence that a fleet was going down the Sound, with troops on board, I wrote to Generals Spencer and Arnold, to repair to the eastward, and to pur-

MAJOR GENERAL NATHANIEL GREENE



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sue such measures as circumstances should seem to require. My letter to General Arnold did not get to hand, owing to the uncertainty of his route, till he had almost reached this. He sets out to-morrow morning; and I doubt not these two gentlemen will render you many essential services. In respect to the other aid, I cannot give you.

The Delaware now divides our small force from General Howe's army, a large part of which is cantoned in the neighboring towns; which, from appearances, and many concurring reports, is only waiting an opportunity to pass. As soon as the ice is formed, they will try to effect it. General Howe's object, beyond all question, is to possess Philadelphia; and I could heartily wish there was not too much grounds for some disagreeable apprehensions on that head. Without more vigorous exertions on the part of the people, than what have appeared of late, I see but little to prevent him from accomplishing his purpose.

In the course of a few days, the last of this month, the force I now have, by no means equal to his, will, by the impolicy and fatal system of short enlistments, be reduced to a mere handful, unless the militia can be prevailed on to give their aid. As yet, but very few, those of the city excepted, have got in motion, notwithstanding the most pressing solicitations, and apparent intentions of the enemy to invade their state and seize their capital. How things will turn out, the event must determine; at present, the prospect is gloomy. I have the honor to be, &c.,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

Gen. Greene to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Coryell's Ferry, December 21st, 1776.

Dear sir:—By your letter to General Washington, I find the British troops have landed on Rhode Island. Although I am sorry my own country should be subject to their ravages, yet I rejoice that they are surrounded by a people who are united, and firmly determined in opposition.

You may be subject to a partial evil, but America cannot fail to reap the advantage. You think you are greatly infested with tories and disaffected; but there is but the shadow of disaffection with you, to what there is here. The Friends, or Quakers, are, almost to a man, disaffected. Many have the affrontery to refuse the Continental currency. This line of conduct cannot fail drawing down the resentment of the people upon them. The fright and disaffection was so great in the Jerseys, that in our retreat of one hundred and odd miles, we were never joined by more than a hundred men. I dare say, had that army been in New England, we should not have been under the necessity of retreating twenty miles.

We are now on the west side of the Delaware; our force, though small, collected together; but small as it is, I hope to give the enemy a stroke in a few days. Should fortune favor the attack, perhaps it may put a stop to General Howe's progress. His ravages in the Jerseys exceed all description. Men slaughtered; women ravished; mothers and daughters ravished in presence of the husbands and sons, who were obliged to be spectators to their brutal conduct. I thereby, notwithstanding the general disaffection of a certain order of people, [believe] the army will fill up. Should that be the case, nothing is to be feared.

By a vessel just arrived from France, with a valuable cargo, we learn a French war is inevitable. Short enlistments have been, in a great measure, the source of all the misfortunes that we labor under; though, thank God! but few to what we at first expected. The Congress, in the infancy of politics, could not be brought to believe many serious truths. By attending to speculative principles rather than real life, their

maxims in war have been founded in folly. However, experience ripens judgment, and enables us to correct many an error in business that at first we could not conceive of; and I don't doubt the Congress in time will be as able politicians in military matters, as they are in civil government.

The eastern delegates made application to General Washington for me to come to Rhode Island, but the General would not consent. He thinks more is to be trusted to the virtue of your people than to the force of this country. As the enemy have got possession of Rhode Island, and done all the mischief they can, it will not be bad policy to let them remain in quiet, until spring. To attempt any ——— against them, unless you are sure of success, will be a very dangerous manœuvre. 'Tis an endless task to attempt to cover all the country. You must drive back the stock from the shores, and make a disposition to cover capital objects. By too great a division of your force, you'll be incapable of making any considerable opposition whenever they may think proper to make a descent. But it is my opinion they will be peaceable if you will; for, from the best accounts we can get, they consist of the invalids of the army. They may attempt to plunder the shores, but nothing more than that, this winter; for I am confident they have no hopes of penetrating into the country. If they make any descent, it will be against Providence, to seize the stores and burn the town. This is very probable; as the tories will endeavor, in Newport, to spirit them on to such an attempt; but unless it is already done, you have nothing to fear.

I am told some malicious reports [have been] propagated industriously about me, respecting the loss of the baggage and stores at Fort Lee. They are as malicious as they are untrue. I can bring very good vouchers for my conduct, in every instance; and have the satisfaction to have it approved by the General, under whom I serve. Every thing was got off from that place that could be, with the roads and wagons we had to move the stores with. The evacuation of Fort Lee was determined upon several days before the enemy landed above us; and happily, all the most valuable stores were away. The enemy's publication of the cannon and stores then taken, is a grand falsehood; not an article of military stores was left there, or nothing worth mentioning.

The Congress have removed to Baltimore. General Spencer and General Arnold are coming to take the command at Rhode Island. Arnold is a fine, spirited fellow, and an active general. I hope they keep the enemy at bay. My respects to your family, and all my Providence friends.

Believe me to be, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

NATH. GREENE.

To Governor Cooke.

Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Morristown, January the 20th, 1777.

Sir—I am exceeding sorry to hear your state has ordered several battalions to be raised for the defence of the state, only; and this, before proper measures are taken to fill the Continental regiments.

You cannot be insensible how unequal any one state is, unconnected with the others, to defend itself, if the enemy should make a descent against it, with any considerable force; neither have you the least reason to think you would desire less protection from the troops, if they were raised upon the Continent's account, than that of the state. If each state was to prepare for its own defence, independent of the others, they would all be conquered in a short time, one by one. Our success must depend on a firm union, and a strict adherence to the general plan; other measures may produce a partial relief, but never can remove the principal evil,

You must be sensible the season is fast approaching, when a new campaign will open; nay, the former is not yet closed; neither do I intend it shall, unless the enemy quit the Jerseys.

It is of the last importance to the interest of America, that the new regiments be speedily levied; it will give me an opportunity in the forepart of the campaign, before the enemy can collect their force, or receive any reinforcement from home, to give them a fatal stab. Such a blow, in the beginning of the season, might terminate the campaign to great advantage. I am sure the necessity of having the Continental regiments immediately completed, is too obvious, to need any further arguments. I hope the powers of government are such, as to complete the new levies by draught, if they cannot be filled seasonably by voluntary enlistments.

Necessity obliges me to call on you (as I shall on every other state), in the most pressing terms, to complete, without delay, your proportion of the eighty-eight battalions. I am confident the raising of the two regiments at the expense of the state before the Continental regiments are complete, can answer no valuable purpose. If the enemy should make a descent upon Rhode Island with any considerable force, the opposition of two regiments will be inconsiderable. If they only infest the coast with their ships, the militia will answer a better purpose, and at a far less expense. I must confess I am ignorant of the reasons that induced the Assembly to adopt the measure; neither can I conceive of the use and policy of the scheme; I wish it may not be productive of more injury than benefit, by introducing innovations and changes, that must retard the filling the Continental regiments, and consequently prejudice the general interest, which every state must have an eye to. The obligation on your stateis greater than on any other; being most exposed, and the least capable of making a separate defence.

Our affairs here, are in a very prosperous train. Within a month past, in several engagements with the enemy, we have killed, wounded and taken prisoners between two and three thousand. I am very confident the enemy's losses will oblige them to re-call their force from your state. If I am properly supported, I hope to close the campaign gloriously for America.

I am, with the greatest regard and esteem, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke.

Gen. Greene to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Morristown, January the 23d, 1777.

Dear Sir:—I am exceeding unhappy to hear of your resolution of raising troops at the expense of the state, before your proportion of the Continental regiments is completed. The forming of new regiments only serve to burthen the state without giving it any additional strength.

There is not a state upon the Continent whose interest and happiness depends so much on a union with the others, as yours. You are the most exposed, and the least capable of making a separate defence; consequently, 'tis your interest to cultivate every measure that may tend to form the union of strength; and it must be considered bad policy to give an example to others, from which you can derive little or no advantage, and that may prove so ruinous in its consequences.

Suppose, for instance, every state was to neglect the completion of the Continental regiments, and prepare for their own internal security? where is the state that's able to withstand the enemy's collective force? If the Continent had troops enough on foot to baffle all the enemy's attempts, and were located to particular states, they must inevitably fall a sacrifice for want of a power of drawing the whole collective force to-

gether. You have no reason to hope, if you neglect the general interest, and take measures for your own particular safety, but that others will do the same; and it is a folly to expect that troops raised for the defence of any particular state, will enter into the service of the states. In general, it is in vain to expect more of soldiers than they are bound by contract to execute.

The source of all our evils has been, by taking measures from speculative principles, rather than from real life. The policy of the states has been pregnant with many evils, by rating our patriotism too high. This kind of policy has distressed the army beyond description; and if I mistake not, this measure of yours has a direct tendency to continue things in the same channel; it may afford you a temporary relief, but never can remove the principal evil.

Divine Providence has given a very favorable turn to affairs, and at an hour when people least expected it. *Now* is the happy hour to complete the Continental establishment. Every state to the southward is exerting itself to fill up its proportion; not a moment should be lost. If the regiments don't fill up by voluntary enlistments, they must be draughted. I hope the powers of government are strong enough to do it. I have not the least shadow of doubt upon my mind, of the success of the war, if the different states raise their men; but on that, the whole depends.

I hope the cause is not less righteous, nor opposition less necessary, than it was at the commencement of this dispute. It was a folly to embark in the cause, and sink under the weight of a few misfortunes. He that goes to war, and always expects a flowing tide, is a novice in the art, and ignorant of human affairs. Our sufferings though great, bear no proportion to our expectations at first. Our resources are daily increasing: we have now a fine nursery of officers, whose judgments are daily ripening by experience and observation. A systematic plan is formed for the exertion of our whole strength. Magazines, arms and military stores of every kind, are forming and formed, to supply the wants of the army. If it was prudent to engage in this war, without any of those advantages, how foolish must our conduct appear, to despair at an hour when we have much to hope, and little to fear.

I must confess I did not expect to find the Americans such slaves to contingencies; but more especially New England, and in particular Rhode Island. Such a depression of spirit under misfortunes, and elevation upon successes, betrays a want of principle and fortitude, that I would fain flatter myself were the foundation of our opposition. Let any man examine the history of any war in Europe, and compare ours with theirs, and see if there has any thing happened different from the common course of events that attend every war. Nay, I think we have abundant cause to bless God that our sufferings have not been greater than they have. A general officer is in a very disagreeable situation; subject to the censure and reproach of every little dirty politician, ignorant of every circumstance necessary to form a right judgment. But such is the disposition of mankind, that success only marks the man of wisdom, while the unfortunate are execrated without any allowances for Providential interpositions or human accidents.

I am very sorry to hear of the distraction and confusion that prevails in your councils and public measures. The liberality with which you confer favors on some, and fix stigmas on others, must make men of real merit somewhat cautious how they put themselves in a situation where they may be reduced from the highest pitch of glory, to the lowest state of contempt. It was ever the policy of the Romans to be cautious whom they trusted, and how they disgraced those they had once honored.

I saw a letter from one Malmedy, a French gentleman, to His Excellency General Washington, whom you have appointed a brigadier general; and a copy of a letter from General Lee, to your state, recommending him for a chief colonel's commission. General Lee's letter contains some infamous and very illiberal reflections upon the genius of all the New England states; however just the observations, with respect to particular appointments, 'tis certainly very unjust when applied to the whole body of

the people. There are as many men of spirit, activity and understanding in New England, as in any part of the world, according to their numbers.

A novelty of things of foreign growth, often makes us rate them above those of more solid worth of our production. The gentleman that General Lee recommended, may be deserving, and possess every quality ascribed to him; but I must confess I have not the highest veneration for the General's recommendation. His temper scarce admits of a proper medium to form a just estimate of people and things. His approbation and execration depend often upon trifles; besides, the General don't know the power he has over the Americans, and consequently is not cautious enough in his recommendations not to abuse it.

Some amongst you, I am told, are uncharitable enough to charge the army with a design of protracting the war for their own private advantage. The bosom that can harbor such a thought, must be very ill principled, and ignorant of our sufferings. For my own part, Heaven knows there is not a man in America, that would more sincerely rejoice at the close of this unhappy dispute, than myself; neither have I a single wish to continue in service a moment longer than the interest and happiness of my country require it. I would freely give place to any man that should be found more deserving. I am conscious of having faithfully discharged my duty to the utmost of my power; and although I have not been able to command success, I have religiously endeavored to deserve it. I am happy in the confidence of the general whose merit and worth cannot be too highly rated.

Yet I am told there are some ungodly tongues among you (whose greatest virtue don't equal the General's very vices), who give themselves a latitude of censure.

Ever since the Trenton affair, we have had a continual train of successes. The Lord seems to have smote the enemy with a panic. I wish our strength would admit a proper improvement; but our delicate situation requires the utmost caution and prudence. The enemy are near three thousand weaker than they were a month ago.

Our parties have daily skirmishes, in which we have been always successful. His Excellency has ordered General Heath to advance on Newport, to co-operate with us; the result of which I have not learned; but we have a rumor it is attended with success. General Spencer and Arnold are with you in this; I long to hear of your situation. I expect General Knox will pass through Providence. I beg leave to recommend him to your warmest friendship, as a most deserving man. His spirit, military knowledge and ripeness of judgment, is inferior to very few, if any, in America. I shall close this long letter, with strongly recommending the filling the Continental regiments immediately. I am, with the greatest sincerity and truth,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

NATH. GREENE.

To Governor Cooke.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

Baltimore, January 31st, 1777.

Gentlemen:—As there is not a more distinguished event in the history of America, than the declaration of her Independence—nor any that, in all probability, will so much excite the attention of future ages, it is highly proper, that the memory of that transaction, together with the causes that gave rise to it, should be preserved in the most careful manner that can be devised.

I am therefore commanded by Congress, to transmit to you the enclosed copy of the act of independence, with the list of the several members of Congress, subscribed

thereto; and to request that you will cause the same to be put upon record, that it may henceforth form a part of the archives of your state and union, a lasting testimony of your approbation of that necessary and important measure.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Honorable Assembly of the state of Rhode Island.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the first Monday in February, 1777.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Brown, Henry Ward and Daniel Rodman, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draught letters in answer to the letters received from His Excellency General Washington and General Greene; that they also draught a letter to Congress; that they make report, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Samuel Aborn be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw out of the general treasury the sum of £200, lawful money, for the use of the troops raised by this state.

Whereas, the committee from the town council of the town of Providence represented unto this Assembly, that the house at present improved for a hospital, for the small pox, is very inconvenient for the purpose; as thereby, a very important pass, to and from the town, in case of an attack from the enemy, is greatly obstructed; and the carrying thither persons who break out with that distemper, gives great uneasiness to the troops stationed in said town, who, by reason of the vicinity of the hospital thereto, are in great danger of taking the distemper; a communication of which, among the troops, at this critical period, would be

attended with the most fatal conseqences; and that consideration thereof, induced the Honorable Major General Spencer to request that a more suitable place for a hospital might be procured in a retired situation.

In consequence of which, a town meeting was called, which appointed a person to look out for such a place; who reported to the town council, that he found no place so suitable for the purpose, as a house in North Providence, owned by Jesse Lealand, about three miles from the market, in said town of Providence; and thereupon, the said committee requested that the said town council, or a suitable committee, appointed by this Assembly for that purpose, might be empowered to make use of the house of the said Jesse Lealand, for the purpose, aforesaid, they paying a reasonable rent therefor; and that they, or said committe, might be empowered to remove thither any persons who may be taken sick with the small pox in said town of Providence; and to grant liberty to some suitable person to inoculate those who live in said house, and have not had the distemper, if they have an inclination therefor; or such as may be employed as nurses at said hospital;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the town council of the town of Providence be, and they are hereby, empowered to take possession of the house owned by Jesse Lealand, in North Providence, for the purpose, aforesaid; they allowing a reasonable rent for the use of the same, and the damages the tenant, John Jenckes Durfey, may suffer by his sudden removal; and that upon any persons being carried into said house, who may have taken the small pox, in the natural way, that the tenant, his family and the nurses, may be inoculated; and that the same be under the direction of the town council of the town of Providence; and that they request General Spencer to place the necessary guards.

It is voted and resolved, that the committees of safety within this state be, and they are hereby, directed to pay the additional wages allowed to the officers who accepted

Continental commissions, in the regiments lately under the command of the Colonels Richmond and Lippitt.

It is voted and resolved, that the field-officers, captains, lieutenants, ensigns, and other officers and privates of the militia and alarm-list, within this state, who have been draughted, and have done, or shall do, duty, agreeably to the acts of this Assembly, passed at the last session, shall receive the following wages and rations, to wit:

Pay and Rations of the Officers and Soldiers of the Militia.

	Wages per month.		Rations per day.
	£	s.	
A colonel	22	10	6
A lieutenant colonel,	18	00	5
A major	15	00	4
A captain	12	00	3
A lieutenant	8	02	2
An ensign	6	00	2
An adjutant	12	00	2
A quartermaster	7	10	2
A major of brigade,	9	18	4
Sergeants	2	08	1
Corporals	2	04	1
Drummers	2	04	1
Fifers	2	04	1
Privates	2	00	1

And it is further voted and resolved, that the captains, lieutenants and ensigns, of the several independent companies within this state, who have been draughted, and have done, or shall do, duty, as is above specified, shall be entitled to, and receive the same wages that are allowed to the officers of the militia and alarm-list, and the same number of rations that are allowed the several militia officers with whom they respectively rank; and that the non-commissioned officers and privates of said companies, also receive the same bounties, wages and rations, as are allowed to the

non-commissioned officers and privates of the militia, or alarm-list, as aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the schooner Mary, Thomas Williams, master, belonging to William Brown, of Dighton, in the state of Massachusetts Bay, be permitted to proceed to Hispaniola, under the regulations and restrictions with which vessels have heretofore been permitted to sail, by the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that the non-commissioned officers and privates, who have enlisted into the brigade raising by this state, for fifteen months, may enlist into the Continental battalions raising by this state; and that they receive, therefor, an additional bounty, so as to make it equal to the bounty allowed to able-bodied men enlisting into said battalions.

Whereas, Messrs. Job Spencer, William Hopkins and Thomas Matteson, preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth that they were draughted in the first division in Col. Brown's regiment, and warned to appear at East Greenwich, on the 7th day of January last past; that they did not appear until the 20th day of the same month; and thereupon prayed that they might be permitted to make up their deficiency, by serving an equal number of days in the second division, and be exempted from the fine which by law they are liable to; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that every non-commissioned officer and private soldier belonging to this state, who shall enlist for three years, or during the present war with Great Britain, shall, in addition to the pay and encouragement given by the Continental Congress, be entitled to, and receive, the sum of £16, lawful money, on his passing muster, which shall be in lieu of all other bounty and encouragement heretofore offered by the General Assembly of this state; and that this Assembly will furnish each non-

commissioned officer and private, who shall enlist as aforesaid, with arms and accoutrements, a blanket and knapsack, in behalf of the Continent.

An Act for the relief of persons of tender consciences, and and for preventing their being burthened with military duty.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that any person inhabiting within this state, and of sober life and conversation, who can, and shall frankly and freely take the affirmation hereinafter prescribed, before the Governor, Deputy Governor, or either of the assistants, or justices of the superior court, and produce a certificate, thereof; or if one of the people called Quakers, shall produce a certificate from the clerk of the monthly meeting to which he belongs, that he is a member of their religious society, such certificate shall excuse such person from all military duty, whatever.

The Form of the Affirmation.

"I, A. B., do sincerely affirm and declare, that the art of war and fighting, and the use and exercise of arms, therein, either offensively or defensively, is utterly inconsistent with my belief, as a Christian; and that I do not decline and refuse the use, thereof, out of obstinacy, or singularity, but for conscience sake. And this affirmation I make and give, without evasion or mental reservation."

And it is particularly recommended and enjoined on all officers, empowered by this act to administer this affirmation, that they be careful to make inquiry into the lives and conversation of such as apply to them, for the benefit of the same; and be satisfied that they are of sober lives and conversation, agreeably to the intent of this act, before he ad-administer the same; any law, custom or usage, to the contrary in any wise, notwithstanding.

Provided, nevertheless, that any thing before contained in this act be not understood, or construed to extend, to excuse the persons taking the affirmation, or producing the certificates before mentioned, from appearing at the request of any civil magistrate to extinguish fires, remove sick persons, women and children, and from affording any kind of assistance, of a charitable or merely civil nature, upon any time of public calamity and distress.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, that the act for relief of persons of tender consciences, made in the year 1743, and that paragraph in the act for regulating the militia, that requires certain duties of persons of tender consciences, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

And be it further enacted, that no person shall be excused from any future military duty, by his having taken the affirmation, as by the law heretofore enacted.

An Act empowering the general treasurer to hire the sum of £50,000, lawful money.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to hire the sum of £50,000, lawful money; that he issue his notes therefor; that not any note be issued for a less sum than $5; and that said notes be made payable to ———, or order, within five years from the date thereof, with interest at four cent. per annum, until paid.

And it is further enacted, that the form of the notes be as follows:

Form of the Notes to be issued by the Treasurer.

"State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

By virtue of an act of the General Assembly of said state, and as general treasurer thereof, for value received, I promise to pay ———, or order, ——— dollars, within five years from this date, with interest at four per cent. per an-

num, until paid. Witness my hand, this ——— day of ———, A. D. 1777."

And it is further enacted, that the number of notes hereafter mentioned, be of the following denominations, to wit:

1,000	notes,	of five dollars	- - - -	$5,000
1,000	"	" six "	- -	6,000
1,000	"	" seven "	-	7,000
1,000	"	" eight "	-	8,000
1,000	"	" ten "	- -	10,000
1,000	"	" twenty "	- -	20,000
1,000	"	" thirty "	- - - -	30,000

And that the remainder be given for such sums as may suit the persons who take them.

And be it further enacted, that the said notes be printed with the escutcheons and borders used in striking the last bills of public credit; that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, appointed to superintend the press; and that he keep a fair register of the order and manner of signing said notes, and to whom given.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the notes, aforesaid, shall be a lawful tender, for paying and discharging all debts and demands, whatever, in the same manner as the lawful money bills of this state are made a legal tender.

Whereas, a number of inhabitants of the town of Westerly, preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that for want of a proper guard to watch the shores upon the sea-coast of said town, they are very much exposed to the ravages of the enemy; and are almost daily alarmed by their shipping passing and re-passing their sea-coast, in sight of said town, where it is easy for them to land their men; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to take their case into consideration, and enact that a guard or watch, of such a number of men as may be thought sufficient, may be appointed to watch the shores upon their sea-coast; and

that this Assembly would appoint Capt. Samuel Champlin, who lives near the shore, to have the care of said watch;—

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that said petition be, and the same is hereby, referred to the Honorable Major General Spencer.

It is voted and resolved, that the schooner Betsey, whereof Timothy Dagget is master, be permitted to sail for Baltimore, in Maryland, under the regulations and restrictions with which vessels have been heretofore permitted to sail, by the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that all members of the General Assembly, who are drawn in the second or third division of the alarm-list of this state, be excused from doing duty in said divisions at any time during a session of this Assembly, and one day before the sitting thereof, and two days after the rising of the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Immanuel Case, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed the fifth justice of the inferior court of common pleas, for Kings county; and that the other puisne justices, namely: John Northup, Carder Haszard and Joseph Hoxsie, be advanced; Sylvester Robinson, Esq., having vacated his seat.

It is voted and resolved, that John Weeden, who lately came from the island of Jamestown, confine himself to such parts of the town of Warwick as lie northward and westward one mile and-a-half from the salt water; and if he shall transgress said limits, without permission first had and obtained therefor from this Assembly; or in their recess, from the council of war; that the several sheriffs and their deputies, within this state, are hereby directed forthwith to apprehend and commit him to the jail in the county in which he may be apprehended; and the secretary is directed immediately to transmit a copy hereof, to the said John Weeden.

It is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Gardner, who lately came from the island of Rhode Island, forthwith remove to the town of Exeter, and that he confine himself

within said town; and if he shall not, within three days after the rising of this Assembly, proceed to said town of Exeter, or, if he shall, after his arrival there, transgress the limits assigned him, without permission therefor, first had from this Assembly; or, in the recess thereof, from the council of war, the sheriff, or their deputies within this state, are directed forthwith to apprehend and commit him to the jail in the county in which he may be apprehended.

And it is further resolved, that he remove to said town, and continue within the same, at his own expense; and the secretary is directed to furnish the said Benjamin Gardner with a copy hereof, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the resolve of Congress, of the 14th ult., to prevent the depreciation of the Continental currency, be published in the next Providence Gazette.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

Officers in the two Continental Battalions to be raised in this State.

FIRST BATTALION.

Samuel Ward, major.

John Topham, Elijah Lewis and Oliver Clarke, captains.

John Whitmarsh, Peleg Hoxsie, Elias Hull, James Webb, Ichabod Prentice, Edward Slocum and William Davis, Jr., first lieutenants.

Elias Blanchard, Elias Thompson, Jr., Samuel Northup, Richmond Springer, William Gardner, Henry Tew, Jr., Jonathan Davis and Daniel Tillinghast, ensigns.

John Holden, Jr., adjutant.

SECOND BATTALION.

Israel Angell, Esq., colonel.

Jeremiah Olney, Esq., lieutenant colonel.

Simeon Thayer, Esq., major.

David Dexter, Christopher Dyer, Stephen Olney, William Allen and William Potter, captains.

Thomas Hughes, Dutee Jerauld, Ebenezer West and Thomas Waterman, first lieutenants.

N. B. Two of the vacancies for first lieutenants, are to be filled by Sylvanus Shaw and William Humphrey, as soon as it is known they are exchanged.

Oliver Jenckes and Benedict Tew, second lieutenants.

John Harris, Thomas Waterman and Jabez Arnold, ensigns.

N. B. Two of the vacancies for ensigns, are to be filled by Matthew Coggeshall and John Finch; who are to be chosen as soon as it is known they are exchanged.

John Remington, adjutant.

In grand committee,—

It is voted and resolved, that the earliest inquiry be made, by application to His Excellency General Washington, to know whether Colonel Greene will soon be exchanged; and if there is no probability thereof,—

It is further voted and resolved, that this Assembly, or, in their recess, the council of war, will appoint Lieut. Col. Archibald Crary, to command the first battalion of this state, for the Continental service; and the said Colonel Crary is requested in the mean time, to give his utmost assistance, in filling and disciplining said regiment.

Both houses being still in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

A Delegate chosen to the Continental Congress, together with sundry Civil and Military Officers for the State.

Henry Marchant, Esq., a delegate to represent this state in the Honorable Continental Congress.

William Greene, Esq., chief; Shearjashub Bourn, Esq., second; Jabez Bowen, Esq., third; Thomas Wells, Esq., fourth; Perez Richmond, Esq., fifth; justices of the superior court of assize and general jail delivery, within and throughout the state.

John Park, captain; and Gideon Hoxsie, Jr., lieutenant,

of the first company of militia, in the town of Charlestown.

Barber Peckham, first lieutenant, in Captain Royzel Smith's company.

Samuel Bissell, first lieutenant, in Capt. Samuel Phillips's company, in the room of Christopher Brown, who declines.

Job Clapp, second lieutenant; and Christopher Phillips, ensign, of said company.

Rufus Barton, first lieutenant, in Captain Benjamin Church's company, in Colonel Tallman's regiment.

Edward Sands, surgeon of the regiment of artillery.

It is voted and resolved, that the post-riders in this state, regularly appointed, be, and they are hereby, exempted from military service, during their continuance in the duty of post-riders.

It is voted and resolved, that William Potter and Daniel Rodman, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, empowered to lease out the real estates, heretofore taken possession of, by this state, in Kings county, to such persons only as have subscribed the test, or declaration, ordered to be subscribed by the inhabitants of this state; that they receive the rents due for the said estates, from the tenants to whom they were formerly leased, and pay the same to the committee of safety, in Kings county, taking their receipts therefor, as so much money received by their hands, of the general treasurer; and that they make report of their proceedings to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Stephen Babcock be captain of the second company of militia, in the town of South Kingstown, in the room of James Parker, who is appointed in one of the fifteen months' regiments; and that Joseph Carpenter be first lieutenant of said company, in the room of Barber Peckham, who is appointed in one of the said fifteen months' regiments.

It is voted and resolved, that all persons who have been called upon to do duty in the first or second draught of the militia and alarm-list, ordered to be made by this Assembly,

and were members of the Society of Friends, at the time of their being draughted, as aforesaid, shall be excused from any fine incurred by their neglecting said duty; and if committed to jail for the non-payment thereof, they shall be discharged from said confinement, upon their producing a certificate thereof, from the clerk of the monthly meeting, to the commanding officer within whose district he may live; any law to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

Whereas, the standing committee, for auditing accounts, presented unto this Assembly an account of the names of sundry persons in Colonel Stanton's regiment, who have received their pay twice; which is as follows, to wit:

Report of the Standing Committee relative to Sundry Soldiers who had received their Pay Twice.

It appears, upon comparing the accounts of John Northup, Esq., with Colonel Joseph Stanton's, that the following persons have received of said Stanton the sums against their names, and afterwards their whole wages of said Northup:

William Gardner, in Stanton's account - -	£6 12 0
Marlborough Stanton, per receipt, July 29 -	3 04 0
" " " August 23 -	3 00 6
John Welch, per two receipts, August 9 and 24,	2 19 0
John Smith, " " " August 16 -	1 10 0
Peleg Lewis, two receipts, August 15 and 27	4 02 0
	£21 7 6

The above persons were of Capt. Augustus Stanton's company.

NATHANIEL MUMFORD,
THOMAS GREENE,
GIDEON MUMFORD.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that Thomas Arnold, the present captain of said company, deduct the above mentioned sums from the wages due to William Gardner,

Marlborough Stanton, John Welch, John Smith and Peleg Lewis; and that he pay said sums into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the director of the general hospital in this state, and the hospital surgeon, be, and they are hereby, empowered to make such appointments as are necessary for the service, and respectively appertain to them, or either of them, to appoint; regulating their numbers according to the rules of the Continental army, and in proportion to the number of troops for which such hospital shall be used; that their mates respectively draw the same pay and rations as are allowed and drawn by hospital mates in the general hospitals of the Continental army.

That the director agree with all others necessary for the service, upon the best terms he can, not exceeding the pay and rations allowed those in similar stations in the Continental hospitals.

And it is further voted and resolved, that all officers and soldiers in the service of this state, when in hospital, draw their rations from the steward, according to the regulations therefor.

It is voted and resolved, that the officers and soldiers in the militia, alarm-list and independent companies, who may be draughted to do duty within this state, agreeably to the resolve of this Assembly, be not allowed any rations when when absent from their duty on furlough, or when in the hospital.

Whereas, it will be for the general good and particular advantage of this state, to tax the inhabitants and ratable estates therein,—

It is voted and resolved, that at the next session of this Assembly a tax shall be made, for such a sum as it shall then be judged the state can bear.

And that, for the more equitable apportioning the same, upon the several towns, Thomas Church, Esq., Mr. John Brown, George Pierce, James Arnold and Shearjashub Bourn, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to estimate their difference in value and ability, since

the last general estimate was taken; and that said committee make their report to this Assembly on the third day of the next session.

Protest against the Votes of the General Assembly, for Taxing the Towns of Newport, Portsmouth, New Shoreham, Jamestown and Middletown.

We, the subscribers, beg leave to protest against the vote of this house, for estimating the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, New Shoreham, Jamestown and Middletown, upon the tax proposed now to be levied upon the inhabitants of this state, for the following reasons:

1. Because the said towns at present, are in the hands of our enemies, and it would appear preposterous to apportion a tax on those towns, until there is a power to levy the same.

2. Because, while they are in possession of the enemy, it is impossible to make any satisfactory judgment of the value of the estates, or the capacity of the inhabitants to pay such tax.

3. Nor can it be known what waste may be made before the enemy may be obliged to surrender them.

4. Because taxation and representation ever ought to go hand in hand, an idea an American ought never to depart from; but at present some of those towns are entirely without representation, and the others but partially represented.

5. Because it must answer every desirable end, that their true proportion of the present tax, be hereafter apportioned upon them, when it may be in our power to levy it; and that it may be speedily in our power, is our most ardent wish.

JOHN TANNER, JAMES CONGDON, 3D,
BENJAMIN UNDERWOOD, IMMANUEL CASE.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Jenckes be requested to have the small arms brought from Bedford, belonging to this state, cleaned and repaired.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Jacob Greene and David Howell, be, and they are hereby, appointed forthwith to proceed to Baltimore, in Maryland, with the accounts of this state against the Continent; and that they present the same, and apply to Congress for the balance due to this state.

Whereas, Jonathan Haszard, Esq., paymaster to one of the battalions ordered to be raised within this state, is now in the Jerseys,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Charles Holden, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to officiate as paymas-

ter to said battalion, until the return of the said Jonathan Haszard.

Whereas, Messrs. Christopher Whipple and John Therlo preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that on the 26th day of January last, being bound from Turks Island to the port of Providence, with a cargo of salt, lead, iron, cotton-wool, &c., they were steering for the harbor of Newport, not knowing the enemy were in possession thereof, until they discovered their shipping; that they sent a boat on shore to make inquiry, and being informed that they were part of the enemy's fleet, they put the vessel about, and steered for the Eastern Sound, being pursued by two of the enemy's ships; that in order to escape them, they again put about, and steered for the Western Sound; when they presently discovered eleven sail of the enemy's fleet coming down the Sound, standing for Newport, who fired upon them; that being still pursued by the two vessels, aforesaid, they were reduced to the necessity of running the vessel aground, on Point Judith shore; that in order to save their effects from falling into the hands of the enemy, they cut away their mast, and got the sails and some of her rigging ashore, with two bags of cotton-wool, and a number of other articles, when the enemy getting possession of the vessel, set her on fire about seven o'clock, in the evening, and immediately left her; upon which, the said John Therlo, with some assistance, extinguished the fire about two o'clock, the same night, and went about getting the salt on shore, a quantity of which was saved; as was also a quantity of the iron, cotton-wool, part of rum, a cask of porter, and a number of of other articles, which are now in the hands of Stephen Potter, of South Kingstown, and other persons, who unjustly detain the same from them; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to appoint a suitable committee to make examination respecting the premises, with power to act and determine thereon, as to right and justice shall pertain; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition

be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that John Northup, Esq., Mr. Robert Stevens, Jr. and Col. Richard Fry, be the committee for the purposes therein mentioned.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Congdon, 3d, one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that one nine-pound cannon, with a field-carriage and the necessary stores for the same, be allowed to the town of Charlestown.

It is voted and resolved, that the price of refined iron be not more than fifty shillings per hundred; and for bog or brittle iron, not more than thirty-nine shillings, per hundred; and that the price of single refined loaf sugar, by the hundred, shall not exceed one shilling and sixpence, per pound; and by the single loaf, one shilling and eightpence per pound.

It is voted and resolved, that twelve shillings per day be allowed to each of the standing committee, in full for all their services, and all expenses.

Whereas, the committee, who were appointed to draught a letter to His Excellency General Washington, laid the same before this Assembly; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, approved; and that a fair copy thereof be made, and forwarded to His Excellency, as soon as may be.

Whereas, the same committee, who were also appointed to prepare the draught of a letter to the Honorable General Greene, laid the same before this Assembly; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, approved of; that a fair copy thereof be made out and for-

warded, as soon as may be, to the Honorable General Greene.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Stephen Mumford, as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £2,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the sloop Florida, whereof Oliver Gardner is master, be permitted to proceed to Hispaniola, under the regulations and restrictions which vessels have been heretofore permitted to sail by the council of war.

An Act in addition to an act, passed the last session of Assembly, for preventing monopolies and oppression.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is hereby enacted, that each and every town within this state, where European or East India goods are sold, either by wholesale or retail, be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to call a town meeting, to appoint a committee, consisting of three judicious persons, who have been used to the European trade, either two of whom to be a quorum, whose business it shall be, on application, to adjudge and determine whether such goods are sold at a higher price than by said act is allowed; and if the said committee shall adjudge that said articles were sold contrary to the true intent and meaning of said act, they shall give a certificate thereof, to the person who applies for the same, paying to said committee three shillings, therefor; whereupon, the person having such certificate, shall prosecute the seller of said articles, as by said act is directed; and if he shall be convicted, the three shillings, aforesaid, shall be taxed in the bill of cost against the offender.

And be it further enacted, that the seller of such goods by wholesale, shall make out an invoice, thereof, at the sterling cost of the articles sold, with his advance thereon, and deliver the same to the buyer, under the penalty of the sum

at which said articles are sold; and the retailer shall also, if requested by the buyer, make out and give an invoice of the goods, with the sterling cost, and the advance.

Provided, nevertheless, that if said goods have not been imported directly from Europe, but from the West Indies, or any other port or place, not being in Europe, that then the wholesale dealer shall be excused from making out an invoice for the sterling cost; but shall give an invoice with the cost at the port or place where they were purchased; and the said committee shall adjudge and determine the sterling cost, if any dispute ariseth thereon.

It is voted and resolved, that the captains or other officers, commanding companies, in the service of this state, in future, upon exhibiting the abstracts for their respective companies, to their colonel or other field-officer, to be certified, shall before such field officer make solemn oath, that the state of said companies, and all charges and returns therein contained, are just and true.

And the several field-officers within this state are hereby empowered and required to administer such oath, before any abstract be certified; and that such oath having been made, as aforesaid, be by them mentioned in their certificates.

Whereas, Mr. Peter Randall preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that his son Joseph Randall hath been draughted as a soldier; that notwithstanding his alleging that his state of body, being bursten, he apprehended would not admit of his serving as a soldier, were his principles such as would suffer him to act, he had his property distrained from him, and sold at vendue, for £4 2*s.*, lawful money; that his person hath since been committed to prison, where he now remains; and that in order to evince that the practice of war is against his religious principles, he is ready to take the affirmation, lately passed by this Assembly; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to take his singular case in consideration, and grant him a

release from prison; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same hereby, is granted.

Whereas, Mr. Nicholas Tillinghast is at this time at Boston,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Providence, immediately on his return, apprehend and carry him before the council of war, who are requested to make such order respecting him, as to them shall seem right, and most for the safety of the state.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. George Irish be removed to the town of Warwick; and that he confine himself within the same limits, and under the same restrictions, as John Weeden hath been confined, by a resolve of this Assembly.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, that Elisha Sisson, a person suspected of being inimical to the United States, hath enlisted into one of the regiments from the state of Connecticut,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the Honorable General Spencer be made acquainted therewith; and that he make such order respecting him, as may be most for the safety of this state.

Whereas, a number of prisoners have arrived in the town of Providence, in the cartel vessel from Newport; and as as they belong to, and are subjects of the United States, and live in different governments, and are entirely destitute of money and other necessaries, this Assembly think that it is absolutely necessary, from a motive of compassion, that some provision be made, in order to enable them to proceed to their respective homes, families and friends; wherefore—

Resolved, that Thomas Wells, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to make inquiry into the circumstances attending each person, and make an estimate what sum of money will

be absolutely necessary for their subsistence, until they can get to their several homes; making allowance for the charitable reception they may receive upon the roads; and make immediate report, thereof, in order that said sums may be paid out of the general treasury, to be distributed among them.

It is voted and resolved, that this General Assembly consider the present draught of independent companies, alarm companies and companies of militia, as doing duty upon an alarm, in every respect.

It is voted and resolved, that the Continental agent be, and he is hereby, requested to advance to the prisoners lately arrived in the cartel from Newport, the sum of $50, in such proportion as their distance from home, and other circumstances, may appear to require; and that they be recommended to the states through which they may pass.

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
John Carter, for his bill for printing rules and regulations of the army, and acts and resolves of the General Assembly, &c.	34	06	08
Pardon Tillinghast, for his time and expenses, in the service of the General Assembly	8	04	00
Thomas Tillinghast, for his services as one of the committee appointed to inquire into and estimate the damages done by the soldiers on the islands of Rhode Island and Conanicut	12	07	02
Joseph Bucklin, Jr., for his time and expenses in going to, and returning from Baltimore	40	19	10
Ambrose Page, for four barrels of fine Dutch pistol powder, for the use of the laboratory, by order of the Governor	78	18	06
William Dyer, Jr., for his time and expenses, in going to Providence, by order of Daniel Rodman	1	12	00
Nicholas Cooke, for cash paid on account of the public service; for a quantity of bread and flour delivered Commissary Aborn, &c.	133	13	02
John Child, for the hire of his cart and horse, for the use of the artillery company, in the town of Warren	1	19	00
William Tefft, for his time and expenses in going express from the South Ferry to Providence, by order of Major Thomas Potter	1	15	06
David Wilkinson, for superintending the press, while printing an emission of the lawful money bills	3	06	00
Stephen Leach, for his time and expenses in going express to Gov. Trumbull, of Connecticut, on public business, by order of the Governor	3	02	06
Thomas Allin, for cleaning and mending thirty-seven small arms, fixing bayonets, and making ramrods for the same	10	02	02

Israel Sayles, for work by him done on the works at Bristol Ferry, and for a jack plane, lost in the service 18 00

John Child, for duck by him furnished for an awning for the ammunition-cart, belonging to the artillery company, in the town of Warren..... 3 08 00

Josias Lyndon, for his expenses, in attending on the General Assembly, at the second session in December, A. D. 1776, as clerk of the lower house 2 18 00

William Channing, for his expenses, as assistant clerk of the lower house, at second session in December, A. D. 1776 ..... 2 19 00

Beriah Brown, for notifying the members of the General Assembly to meet at two sessions in East Greenwich; and to meet in general committee, at Providence 6 19 00

Beriah Waite, for going express to carry the acts of the General Assembly, to the respective town clerks and commanders of independent companies in Kings county 2 00 00

Col. Knight Dexter, for going express to Gen. Washington, by order of the Governor 2 11 01

James Congdon, for his time and expenses in going to New London, on public business 1 16 00

Rouse J. Helme, for thirty-four days' attendance, as clerk of the council of war 20 08 00

Col. John Cooke, for the balance of his account against the state, as one of the committee of safety.....479 02 07

Benjamin Larned, for billeting forty-one men, belonging to Col. Slack's company of light horse, and keeping their horses, when on duty in the late alarm, in December last.....123 00 00

Stephen Mumford, for balance of account due him from the state, as one of the committee of safety..... 95 01 04

Pardon Gray, for balance of his account against the state, as commissary of the troops stationed at Tiverton and Little Compton 1,289 12 5½

Martin Seamans, for searching a brig, &c., by order of the Governor 16 10 01

Benjamin Stelle, for cash paid by him, for sundry stores, for the use of the cartel sloop, which went to Block Island, to exchange prisoners, and for his wages as adjutant, &c..... 13 15 00

Ambrose Page, for the loss upon an anchor purchased for the Washington row-galley 3 05 09

Daniel Tillinghast, for balance of his account against the state, as one of the committee of safety..... ...204 19 10

Cromel Child, for materials, labor and sundry other expenses upon the flat-bottomed boats, for the use of the state.....191 19 1½

Noah Smith, for his time and expenses in carrying the acts of the General Assembly to the counties of Kent and Kings 1 16 00

Joshua Burr, for his time and expenses in carrying the acts of the Assembly to the several town clerks and colonels of militia, in the county of Providence 2 08 00

Gideon Mumford, for his service in settling sundry accounts, at East Greenwich, &c. 24 00 00

Thomas Greene, for expenses and services as one of the committee of audit, in settling sundry accounts 18 09 00

Nathaniel Mumford, one of the standing committee, for his time and expenses in settling sundry accounts 19 06 02

Col. Joseph Stanton, Jr., one of the standing committee, for balance of his account against the state.....835 13 06

James Congdon, 3d, one of the committee of safety, for the balance of his account against the state 48 14 3½
John Collins, for a flat-bottomed boat, by him procured to be built in the town of Newport, for the use of the state 24 00 00
Joseph Lawrence, for boarding two officers of Col. Holman's regiment, stationed in the town of Providence 11 15 00
Joseph Lawrence, for boarding Ebenezer Waters, quartermaster of the regiment from the state of Massachusetts Bay, stationed in the town of Providence 5 08 04
Benjamin Lindsey, for a blanket, by him furnished, by order of the town council of Providence, to a soldier in Jonathan Russel's company, who was unable to furnish himself 18 00
James Arnold, Jr., for boarding and nursing two sick prisoners brought from Newport, and landed at Pawtuxet; for washing, &c., for five other sick prisoners 5 00 06
William Potter, for paying sundry laborers' bills, for work done on the court house, in Kings county 21 02 01

God save the United States of America.

Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, Morristown,
6th February, 1777.

Sir:—As the arrival of a sufficient quantity of small arms from Europe, in time to arm the Continental troops, is a matter of great uncertainty, proper steps should be immediately taken in your state to collect all that can be purchased from private people.

The custom of hiring them for the campaign, is attended with many bad consequences; the owners take little care of them, and carry them away and sell or change them, as they please.

Particular attention should be paid to the quality of the firelock; no light trash arms should, on any account, be received in the public stores, if they are not substantial, both in lock and barrel, they should be thrown upon the hands of the commissary who purchased them. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,
GEO. WASHINGTON.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Greene.

————, February 7, 1777.

Sir:—Yours of the 23d ult., has been received, and laid before the General Assembly, and they regret their not advising Gen. Washington at the time they did the General Congress, of the reasons and motives which urged them to a measure which (we hope through wrong informatiou,) His Excellency holds in an unfavorable light, and which has drawn upon them your severest censure.

However, as they are conscious of the rectitude of their intentions, they are prepared to sustain the weight of hasty and unmerited reproofs; and able, notwithstanding the perplexed state of affairs, to give sufficient reasons for the measures they have adopted.

In order that you may yet be undeceived, they will state the motives of their conduct, and from which they think it justified. You are not unacquainted with the power-

ful armament that invaded this little state (not less than seven thousand land forces, and a number of ships of force and many transports); you know the extensive coast, which, at such a time, it was necessary should be defended; and on many parts of which, they could have thrown their whole force in a very few hours; unprovided as we were, we did every thing in our power for defence; every man able to bear arms, was called out to duty, and every precaution taken which the nature and circumstances of things would permit. They were sensible of the impracticability of keeping militia (drawn suddenly from their homes at so rigid a season, for such a length of time as necessity might require), embodied, and in the field; the distressed situation of the Continental army and the impossibility of obtaining relief from them; these were considerations not a little embarrassing to those who had all the horrors of war, and the prospect of instant destruction, before them, and will account for the subsequent proceedings, without recurring to a regular systematic design of introducing innovations, or making separate defence. (Take the proceedings as stated in letter to Gen. Washington, then proceed.)

You may be assured that the subjects of this state have the highest veneration for the inestimable General Washington, and a becoming respect for the brave and worthy generals and commanders under him, and cannot conceive on what the suggestion contained in your letter concerning him, are founded, and request you will give us the authors of such infamous insinuation, that a proper inquiry may be had, and condign punishment inflicted upon such base calumniators.

Hoping that time, patience and a dispassionate inquiry will set things in their true light, they congratulate and rejoice with you on the late almost unhoped success of the American arms, in which the interposition of Divine Providence very legibly appeared; they fervently wish the same to continue until the enemies of America are confounded and exterminated from her shores; her inhabitants restored to peace in liberty and safety, and her brave and worthy generals return to their families and friends, crowned with glory, and surrounded with the blessings of Heaven, and of freemen. In a becoming confidence that these wishes will be granted in due time, they will continue cheerfully to contribute every thing in their power in support of every measure calculated to effect that desirable issue.

I am, &c., NICHOLAS COOKE.

To General Greene.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.

Providence, February 9, 1777.

Sir:—I have been favored with Your Excellency's letters of the 20th and 24th ult., and have laid them before the General Assembly. The enemy having landed not less than seven thousand troops upon Rhode Island, and being possessed of the bay, with a large fleet, laid us under the necessity of establishing a body of forces with all possible expedition.

In this situation, when it was impracticable to fill the Continental battalions, the Assembly set on foot two regiments of seven hundred and fifty men, each; and one regiment of artillery, of three hundred men, to serve for fifteen months. The following is the form of the enlistment of the non-commissioned officers and privates:

"I, the subscriber, do hereby solemnly engage and enlist myself as a soldier in the pay of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, for the preservation of the liberties of America, and the defence of the United States in general, and of this state in particular, from the day of my enlistment, for and during the term of fifteen months, unless sooner discharged by the General Assembly; and I hereby promise to submit myself to all the orders and regulations of the army; and faithfully to observe and obey all such orders as I shall receive from time to time, from my officers."

And the following is the clause in the commission issued to the officers:

"And in case of an invasion or assault of a common enemy to infest or disturb this, or any other of the said states, you are to alarm and gather together the ——— under your command, or any part, thereof, as you shall deem sufficient; and therewith to the utmost of your skill and ability, you are to resist, expel, kill and destroy them, in order to preserve the lives, liberties and properties of the good people of this, and the other United States."

Consequently, those regiments are as much held and designed to do duty in every part of the United States as the Continental battalions; and to render them effectually so, they are by act of government put under the command of General Spencer, and the other generals of the Continental army. And when Congress shall have ordered them into their service, there will be no other difference between them, than that the former are enlisted for fifteen months, and the latter for three years, or during the war.

Early information of the footing upon which these troops are raised, was given to our delegate in Congress, who tells us in a letter of the 7th ultimo, that he had laid the same before the Congress, and that the measures we had taken gave him great satisfaction; and I am extremely sorry it had not been also immediately transmitted to Your Excellency, as I am persuaded, in that case, you would have entertained a very different opinion of this measure, and been convinced that it was adopted from necessity alone; and not with the most distant idea of our making a local or separate defence, or of obstructing the enlistments into the Continental battalions.

It is true, that it hath had a tendency in some degree, to cause such obstruction, which was very early obviated by an order permitting enlistments from those troops into the Continental battalions. In consequence of which, Captain Thayer has, in a short time, enlisted forty men out of one of those regiments.

I will now inform Your Excellency of the measures taken by this state to fill up the two Continental battalions assigned by Congress as our quota of the eighty-eight battalions first ordered to be raised.

We have filled up the greater part of the vacancies in them, and enclose you a list of the officers appointed, who are directed to exert themselves in recruiting. We have also given a bounty of £16, in addition to the encouragement given by Congress; and engaged to furnish each man, in behalf of the Continent, with arms, accoutrements, a blanket and knapsack.

The Assembly will make a short adjournment to try the effect of this great encouragement; and in case these measures fail of the hoped-for success, will make still greater efforts to fill those battalions.

I am to request you to give me information whether there be probability of Col. Greene's being soon exchanged; as the Assembly have left a vacancy for him in that case, and have determined to appoint Col. Crarey to the command of that regiment, if that event be not likely soon to take place.

I am, with great esteem and respect, sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

P. S. Agreeably to Your Excellency's recommendation, I have sent to Newport all the prisoners in the land service, that were in the care of this state, and enclose you one of Lord Percy's receipts for them.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.

Providence, February 18, 1777.

Sir:—Since my last, I have been favored with yours of the 31st ult., and the 2d and the 6th instant.

The letter respecting deserters shall be laid before the General Assembty at the next session, on the fifth Monday in March, who, I doubt not, will take the most proper measures to discourage desertion.

My last to you, will explain the motives by which the General General Assembly were governed, in ordering the brigade to be raised for fifteen months, and the plan upon which they are enlisted. I shall only add to it, that they receive the same pay as the Continental troops; and that the bounty given them, is much less.

The state hath been greatly exhausted of arms by our former exertions; and the enemy having effectually blocked up our ports, it hath not been in our power to import any. How far we shall be able to supply the Continental battalions raising here, I am not able to say; but this I can assure Your Excellency, that nothing shall be wanting on our part, to furnish them.

I am, with great truth and esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the first Monday in March, 1777.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, a quantity of flour, lately arrived from Philadelphia, hath been seized by a warrant, from Gen. Varnum, for the use of the troops within this state; and whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that the said flour, or a great part of it, is the property of persons now on Rhode Island, who are suspected of being inimical to the United States,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be recommended to Mr. Pardon Gray, deputy commissary, that he do not pay for said flour, until this Assembly can obtain further information respecting the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Theodore Foster, Caleb Harris and Daniel Rodman, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to revise the acts for preventing the desertion of soldiers who may enlist in any regiments ordered to be raised by this state; and that they draft an act for punishing any person, who, after having enlisted into any regiment within this state, shall, contrary to law, again enlist into the same, or any other regiment, and receive a second bounty.

Whereas, Jacob Parker, Jr., a soldier in one of the regiments ordered to be raised within this state, re-enlisted in one of the said regiments, and received a second bounty; and the said Jacob hath since deserted and enlisted in of the Connecticut battalions, in the state of Connecticut,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Captain Benjamin West forthwith proceed to Connecticut, and take with him the said Jacob's enlistments within this state; that he apply to the officers who enlisted him in the said state of Connecticut, and acquaint him with his previous enlistments, and request his discharge; that he pay any moneys that may have been advanced as a bounty to the said Jacob, if he be discharged, which shall be deducted from his wages, or otherwise that he request payment of the money advanced him by this state; and that if the said Jacob be discharged, the said Benjamin be directed to bring him within this state, and commit him to jail, that he may be dealt with according to law.

Whereas, Mr. John Larkin hath represented unto this Assembly, that he apprehended one Jacob Parker, Jr., who had received two bounties, and had deserted from one of the regiments ordered to be raised by this state; that being unable to commit him to jail at the time he apprehended him, he released him, upon the said Parker's delivering him a horse as security for his appearance within a limited time; and that although said time had elapsed, said Parker hath not surrendered himself to the said John Larkin;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said John Lar-

kin dispose of the said horse at public vendue, unless any person other than said Parker should appear before the sale, and prove his property in said horse; that he notify the sale three weeks in the Providence Gazette; and that if he dispose of said horse, he pay the money arising from the sale thereof (after deducting the charges), into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith furnish Captain Josiah Gibbs with six guns, bayonets and cartouch-boxes, six blankets and six knapsacks, for the use of the soldiers in his company.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety within this state be, and they are hereby, directed to pay the wages of the officers in the regiment lately under the command of Colonel Lippitt, from the 26th day of August, to the 1st of September, A. D. 1776, being five days; Col. Lippitt having assured this house that the same hath not been paid them by any Continental officer.

This Assembly taking into consideration the following declaration of independence of the thirteen United States of America, made on the 4th of July last, and resolution of Congress passed on the 18th of January last,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the same be entered on the public records of this state.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws o fnature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights; that among these, are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the

right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves, by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain, is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world:

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature; a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining, in the mean time, exposed to all the dangers of invasions from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purposes, obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has combined, with others, to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment, for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

For imposing taxes on us, without our consent;

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas, to be tried for pretended offences.

For abolishing the free system of English laws, in a neighboring province; establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases, whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already began, with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown; and that all political connection between them, and the state of Great Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

JOHN HANCOCK.

Georgia—Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.

North Carolina—William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.

South Carolina—Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton.

Maryland—Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.

Virginia—George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

Pennsylvania—Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.

Delaware—Cæsar Rodney, George Read.

New York—William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.

New Jersey—Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark.

New Hampshire—Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.

Massachusetts Bay—Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.

Rhode Island, &c.—Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.

Connecticut—Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.

In Congress, January 18, 1777.

Ordered, that an authenticated copy of the Declaration of Independence, with the names of the members of Congress, subscribing the same, be sent to each of the United States; and that they be desired to have same put on record.

By order of Congress, JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Attest: CHARLES THOMPSON, Secr'y.

A true copy: JOHN HANCOCK, President.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Brown and Henry Ward, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to lay out a sum not exceeding £50, lawful money, in a present to the Oneida Indians, who were before this Assembly this morning.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith, as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £2,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Congdon, 3d, as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £1,500, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £1,500, in lawful money, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, John Wells and Waterman Williams, two of the workmen at the paper mill, are drawn to serve the state, as

militia men, in the third division; and this Assembly is informed, that if said men are taken from the mill, the state will be deprived of cartridge paper, which is at present very much wanted,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that they be discharged from the said service.

It is voted and resolved, that the non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who enlisted in the Continental battalions ordered to be raised within this state, before the additional bounty was allowed by this Assembly to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers who should enlist in said battalions, be allowed the said additional bounty.

It is voted and resolved, that the act passed at the last session of this Assembly, for confining John Weeden to the town of Warwick, be, and it is hereby, repealed, with this proviso, that the said John Weeden give his parole to His Honor the Governor, that he will not go, or attempt to go, upon any of the islands in the bay, without having leave from this Assembly, therefor.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety deliver to the officers in the Continental battalions, and fifteen months regiments, so much of the clothing allowed the non-commissioned officers and privates of said battalions and regiments, as the said non-commissioned officers and privates, by them enlisted, shall be in immediate want of.

It is voted and resolved, that the small arm, belonging to Mr. Stephen Jenckes, be purchased by this state, and presented to one of the chiefs of the Oneida nation, now within this state.

Whereas, Mr. John Brown, one of the committee appointed to make a present to the Oneida Indians, presented to this Assembly an account thereof, which being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that £26 13*s.* 3*d.*, lawful money, the amount thereof, be paid the said John Brown, out of the general treasury; and that £12, lawful money, be allowed and

paid out of the general treasury, to Capt. Stephen Jenckes, for a gun purchased of him, and made a present of, to the said Indians.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the independent company of the Kingstown Reds, that they excuse George Tefft and Jeremiah Sheffield (who are employed in making and stocking guns), from doing service in said company, in the third division of independent companies.

It is voted and resolved, that £100, lawful money, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to Henry Marchant, Esq., appointed a delegate to represent this state at the General Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Jonathan Haszard, paymaster to one of the Continental battalions ordered to be raised within this state, be, and he hereby is, empowered to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for paying the bounties allowed to soldiers who shall enlist into said battalions.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Andrew Comstock proceed with his sleigh and four horses, to convey the six Indian chiefs to the Honorable Governor Trumbull's, in Connecticut; and that he receive for his services, in carrying the chiefs and their baggage, £18, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, the committee appointed to estimate the several towns, in order to apportion a tax upon the inhabitants of this state, presented unto this Assembly the following report, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed to Assess a Tax upon the Inhabitants of the State.

"We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, at their last session, at Providence, to form an estimate of the several towns within the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and report the same to the next session of said Assembly, have accordingly met at the court house, in Providence, this 25th day of February, 1777; and after examining the former estimate, as taken in the year 1767, and maturely considering the several alterations, as additions to, and deductions of, property,

in each town within this state, do report the value of each town to be as follows to wit:

Newport	£229,176	Westerly	58,485	
Portsmouth	89,531	North Kingstown	95,653	
New Shoreham	20,947	South Kingstown	184,456	
Jamestown	34,531	Charlestown	48,237	
Middletown	66,876	Richmond	39,041	
Tiverton	73,211	Hopkinton	52,513	
Little Compton	64,798	Exeter	54,359	
	£579,070			£532,744
Providence	225,524	Bristol	50,000	
Smithfield	108,785	Warren	20,000	
Scituate	80,861	Barrington	22,575	
Gloucester	70,555			£92,575
Cumberland	40,992	Warwick	100,326	
Cranston	74,806	East Greenwich	56,003	
Johnston	31,000	West Greenwich	37,830	
North Providence	29,512	Coventry	50,788	
	£662,355			£244,947
				£2,111,371

THOMAS CHURCH, JAMES ARNOLD, JR.,
SHEARJASHUB BOURN, GEORGE PIERCE.
JOHN BROWN,

Providence, February 25, 1777."

And the said report being duly considered,—

Resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; that a tax of £16,000, lawful money, be assessed upon the inhabitants, and apportioned according to this estimate; and that the standing committee apportion said sum, and draft a bill accordingly.

Protest against the above Vote.

"I, the subscriber, do beg leave to protest against the estimate, as now apportioned by the committee appointed for that purpose; it appearing to me there is a manifest error, as it is evident from the present distressed situation of the town of Bristol, it is estimated at too high a value; the inhabitants being removed by reason of the troops being barracked in their houses, and no trade or business of any kind being, by them done; they being under the disagreeable necessity and the expense of removing their families and effects, and hiring abroad places for their families to reside in; the rivers and bays being by the Author of universal nature so situated, that the ships of war of His Britannic Majesty, and the tenders belonging to the same, can at all times harass them, and keep the inhabitants from their lawful employments, unless the same standing force, should be kept up, which at all times (while they are there stationed) renders their houses and estates to them, in a great measure, useless.

Under all these disadvantageous circumstances, it appears to me, and I think must to every reasonable member, that the said town is not able at present to pay so large a tax as either of the towns of Warren or Barrington; on these considerations it is

that I, as an inhabitant of this town, and a member chosen by the free suffrages of the same, and the state in general, to sit here, to see justice impartially administered, do protest in solmen form against the said apportionment. SIMEON POTTER.
Providence, March 8, 1777.

It is voted and resolved, that Thos. Church, Esq., and Mr. Cromel Child, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to examine into any abstracts that may be suspected to have been erroneously made out.

That they be empowered to call before them the officers who made the same; and that they make report to this Assembly, or to the council of war, as soon as may be.

Whereas, James Angell, Esq., hath represented to this Assembly, that he hath brought in a large quantity of wood, for the use of the troops, and the inhabitants of the town of Providence; and that he will bring in a further quantity of ten cords of wood, if he can be discharged from serving in the third division of the militia, in which he hath been draughted;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that he be excused from doing service upon his bringing the above quantity of wood into the town of Providence.

Whereas, John Howland, Jr., Jeremiah Ballard, 3d, Ichabod Ballard, Luke Ballard, Nathan Paine, Jr., Elisha Herrendeen, James Stone, Thomas Herrendeen, Jr. and Nathan Paine, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that they are now prisoners under arrest, because they cannot actively comply with the laws requiring of them military duty:

That the council of war had extended to them the benefit of a law made and passed at the last session, for the relief of persons of tender consciences, and have referred them to this Assembly for relief from fines already incurred; and thereupon, the said petitioners prayed this Assembly to grant them a dismission and release from imprisonment, that they may return to their families and lawful employments; where, they trust, by their industry and circumspect lives and conversations, they shall continue to merit the

countenance and protection of government; and the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petitioners, in their aforesaid petition contained, be, and the same is hereby, granted.

Whereas, Noah Arnold, Jr. and Seth Hunt, preferred unto this Assembly their petition, setting forth, that they are now prisoners in the jail in Providence, for not appearing according to the late draught of the militia; that they have before the council of war complied with a law passed at the last session, for the relief of persons of tender consciences, and are desirous to yield every kind of obedience to civil authority, that is consistent with their religion; and thereupon prayed to be released from the fines already incurred by them; and the premises being considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Noah Arnold, Jr., and Seth Hunt, be discharged from jail and from their fines.

Whereas, Amos Turner preferred his petition, and represented unto this Assembly. that he is now confined in jail, for a fine of $36, incurred by his not appearing in the first division of the militia, in which he was draughted; and which being a matter of conscience, he could not find himself clear to pay; since which, this Assembly have passed an act for the relief of persons of tender consciences, which at the time he was draughted, he had not the advantage of, though he has since complied therewith; and thereupon, prayed to be released from his present confinement; and the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

Whereas, Asa Potter preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth that he has been confined in prison upwards of a fortnight, because he could not, for conscience sake, take up arms; and thereupon prayed this Assembly that he might be released from his present confine-

ment; and the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the said Asa Potter be discharged and dismissed from jail, upon his producing a certificate of his taking the affirmation, agreeably to the late act of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Jonathan Haszard be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw $2,470 out of the general treasury, as paymaster to one of the Continental battalions, raising by this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Benjamin L. Peckham be, and he is hereby, elected to the office of ensign, in the company of Captain Royzel Smith, in the second battalion of Continental troops raised by this state, in the room of ——— Kinyon, who hath resigned.

It is voted and resolved, that the officers and soldiers in Colonels Noyes and Sands's regiments, who engaged in the service of this state before a commissary was appointed, and furnished themselves with provisions, be allowed the value of the rations as allowed them by Congress, during the time they furnished themselves, as aforesaid; and that the same be paid them by the committee of safety, upon their producing certificates of the rations due to them, as aforesaid, from the said Colonels Noyes and Sands.

Whereas, Colonel Tallman hath informed this Assembly that application hath been made to him to build a Continental vessel, in the state of Connecticut, and hath requested the advice of this Assembly, respecting his engaging in said service,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that he be advised to undertake the building of said vessel; and that he be discharged from the service of this state, at the expiration of twenty days, or before that time, upon his application to the council of war for that purpose, if his attendance should be required, for the above mentioned service, before the expiration of said twenty days.

Whereas, Mr. Joseph Mathewson, one of the town council, of Coventry, exhibited unto this Assembly an account by him charged against the state, for a number of small arms, bayonets, cartouch boxes, scabbards and belts; and for a number of blankets and knapsacks, by him supplied for the use of the state; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £50 5*s.*, lawful money, be paid unto the said Joseph Mathewson, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Robert Helme be appointed an ensign in Captain William Potter's company, in the second battalion of the Continental troops now raising in this state, in the room of Allen James, who resigns.

It is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Diamond be appointed brigade major of the brigade in the service of this state.

That Sion Martindale, who hath the care of the forts, stores and ammunition in Bristol, have the rank and pay of major; and that Moses Turner be clerk to General West, with an allowance of £6, per month.

Whereas, a quantity of flour, lately arrived in the sloop Sally, Henry Sowle, master, from Philadelphia, hath been seized by a warrant from General Varnum for the use of the troops; one-tenth part whereof is claimed by Mr. James Robinson;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that upon his proving his right thereto, to the satisfaction of the General Assembly, he shall be paid the value of his part of said flour, with the interest accruing thereon.

This Assembly being under greatconc ern, that no attempt hath, as yet, been made against the enemy upon Rhode Island, which they consider as a great disgrace to New England, in general, and to this state, in particular,—

Do resolve, that it be, and hereby is, strongly recommended to the Honorable Major General Spencer (if it be

any way consistent with prudence), to make an attack upon the enemy at Rhode Island; and in that case do engage in behalf of the Congress of the United States, to pay to all such volunteers as he shall engage in such an attempt, the same wages as are given to soldiers in the Continental service.

And it is further resolved, that the officers and soldiers who go upon Rhode Island, shall be entitled to a reward of $1,000, for every British or foreign general officer; $200, for a colonel; $150, for a lieutenant colonel; $100, for a major; $50, for every captain; $30, for every subaltern; and $20, for every private, taken prisoner, and brought off the island, as aforesaid, within fifteen days; and that said reward be equally divided between officers and privates.

And it is further resolved, that those of the inhabitants of Rhode Island and Jamestown, who shall engage as volunteers in an attack on said island, form themselves into companies of not less than thirty-two men, and appoint their officers; that said officers being approved of by General Spencer, be commissioned by His Honor the Governor; that Major Tew, Captain John Topham, Thomas Stacey, John Carr and Messrs. Charles Spooner and John Kilburn, be requested forthwith to assemble such of the said inhabitants who shall be willing to engage in said service, for the purpose, aforesaid.

And His Honor the Governor is hereby requested to require the colonels of the militia, and commanders of independent and alarm companies within this state, that they forthwith assemble their companies, excepting those who are now in service in the third division; and that they engage as many volunteers for said service, from said regiments and companies, as may be procured; that they be formed into companies of not less than thirty-two men, and appoint their officers; who being approved of, shall be commissioned, as aforesaid.

And it is further resolved, that the volunteers who shall

enlist, as aforesaid, in the county of Providence, assemble in the town of Providence, on Wednesday, the 12th day of March inst.

And those who shall enlist, as aforesaid, in Kings county, and Kent, assemble on the same day, at East Greenwich.

That those who shall enlist in the county of Bristol, assemble at Bristol.

And those in the county of Newport, at Howland's Ferry, on the same day; that they equip themselves with arms and accoutrements; and when embodied, that they be under the command of General Spencer.

And it is further resolved, that His Honor the Governor, and General Spencer, be requested to write to the selectmen of the towns of Rehoboth, Taunton, Attleborough, Wrentham, Norton, Bellingham, Dighton, Swanzey, Freetown, Dartmouth and Middleborough, and request their aid and assistance, in engaging as many volunteers within their respective towns, for the purpose, aforesaid, as may be procured; and that they form themselves into companies, appoint their officers, and march to the town of Tiverton, on or before the 12th day of March inst.

And it is further resolved, that said companies of volunteers be discharged on the 20th day of March inst., or sooner, if the service on which they are engaged will admit of it.

Whereas, Captain Samuel Carr, and Benjamin Underwood, Esq., in behalf of themselves and others, late inhabitants and freemen of Jamestown, preferred their petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that they have, by the directions of government, disposed of the greatest part of their stock; and being truly attached to the just cause of the United States, have removed themselves and families from said town of Jamestown, to the main land, where they have provided for them, out of the small sums of money received for their stocks; paying high rents for houses to live in for the year past, and having but little profits of their lands, which are now in the hands of the enemy; and that they

are still desirous to maintain themselves and families by an honest industry, rather than submit to the cruel mandates of an arbitrary king, whose agents are plundering and destroying every thing valuable that was left upon their lands; and thereupon prayed this Assembly that they may have an opportunity of hiring at a reasonable price some of the lands taken into possession by government, which they are informed are to be rented out this spring; and further represented, that this Assembly did, some time in the year past, pass an act that the freemen belonging to the town of Jamestown, who had removed to the main land, might of right return to the town of Jamestown, to choose their representatives and other officers; that they cannot now enjoy that privilege; and that the greatest part of the freemen are now removed to the main, with the town's records; and thereupon besought this Assembly, that if the major part of the freemen belonging to the said town of Jamestown agree and choose their representatives, that the men so chosen may be admitted as members of this Assembly; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the prayer of the said Samuel Carr and Benjamin Underwood, in their aforesaid petition contained, be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable William Bradford, Esq., Henry Ward, Esq., and Messrs. John Brown and Cromel Child, or any two of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draft a letter to Congress, representing the present situation of the fleet now within this state.

That the officers and men on board said fleet have not yet received their prize money; and that said letter being approved of by the council of war, be signed by the Governor, and forwarded as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Cromel Child and Sylvester Child be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to lease out the estates in the county of Bristol,

heretofore taken possession of by this state, to such persons only as have heretofore subscribed the test; and that they receive the back rents, and pay the same into the general treasury.

And it is further voted and resolved, that Perez Richmond, Esq., and Mr. Nathaniel Church, be a committee to take into possession, and lease out the real estates in the county of Newport, belonging to Messrs. Joseph Scott and Edward Simmons, and to the heirs of Andrew Oliver, and the estate in the possession of William Durfee, belonging to persons in Great Britain, in behalf of this state, to such persons only as have subscribed the test.

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£ s. d.
Caleb Harris, for his time and expenses to Windham respecting the manufacture of powder within this state	3 10 06
Bela Elderkin, for his time and expenses from Windham to Providence, to examine the powder manufactured in this state, &c.	7 08 05
George Peirce, for expenses of himself and aid, in bringing to Providence two persons who came from Rhode Island to North Kingstown, &c	1 07 06
Paul Allen, for his expenses, moneys by him advanced, aud sundry disbursements, in fitting the sloop Diamond for Baltimore, on account of the state	250 04 04½
Mrs. Mehitable Field, for boarding and nursing John Hawkins, a sick soldier, in service within this state	1 10 00
John Sands, for boarding Adjutant Stelle, who went in the sloop Diamond to Block Island, to manage an exchange of prisoners; for boarding the prisoners and people, and for sundry necessaries by him supplied for the use of said sloop	12 14 08
Rouse J. Helme, for twenty-seven days' services as clerk to the council of war	16 04 00
Thomas Church, for a cedar boat purchased for the guards at Seaconnett Point; and for six oars belonging to said boat	9 03 06
Thomas Church, for cash by him paid for carting a chest of arms from Cambridge to Bristol; for going to Newport, to examine the arms belonging to Colonels Richmond and Lippitt's regiments; and for his time and expenses at Providence, as one of the committee, to estimate the proportion of the several towns, &c.	3 12 00
John Herrenden, for his services as armorer	12 00 00
William Channing, for his expenses in attending on the General Assembly, as assistant clerk, at the last session	2 06 00
Nathaniel Mumford, for his services in finishing the adjustment of the accounts of the committee of safety	9 12 00
Gideon Mumford, as one of the standing committee, for his services in settling the accounts of the committee of safety	4 16 00

	£ s. d.
Thomas Greene, for divers articles of provisions, wood, &c., by him furnished to the troops stationed iu this state, &c.	54 18 05½
Thomas Greene, for his services as one of the committee for auditing accounts	9 00 00
Benjamin Underwood, for purchasing guns for the use of the poor of the town of Jamestown, $80.	
Josias Lyndon, for his expenses to attend the Assembly, as clerk; and for three-quarters of a ream of paper for the use of the house of deputies,	3 04 10
Simeon Potter, for three whale-boats, taken by order of General West and Colonel Richmond, for the troops to go upon Prudence, at the time it was attacked by Wallace; for two whale-boats, taken by order of Gov. Bradford, to go upon Hog Island, to take off stock, &c.; for cordage delivered to William Throop, by Governor Bradford's order, and for the use of his careening fall to draw cannon, &c.	33 04 06
Executors of John Waterman, deceased, for his time, labor and sundry materials by him provided for building a powder mill for the use of this state	324 11 08
William Potter, for priming the sashes and glazing the windows of the court house in Kings county	14 11 00
Silas Casey, for expense of going express from Greenwich to Providence, by order of William Greene, Esq., to inform the Governor of the arrival of one of the government's salt-vessels, and for the storage of a quantity of salt	23 04 01
John Sayles, Jr., for his expenses, three journeys from Bristol to Providence, to attend the general committee	4 10 00
George Rounds, for carting done by him for the service of the state	16 05 00
Fenner & White, for a quantity of tallow candles for the use of the troops in Bristol	11 08 10
Andrew Williams, for carting done by him, for the use of the troops	15 17 00
Joseph Williams, " " " " " " "	9 15 00
Cromel Child, for materials by him provided for, and labor done in, making some repairs on the galley Washington	10 02 03
William Pearse, for boarding and nursing a soldier; for six barrels of cider, taken from his house at Bristol Ferry, by the soldiers who came off Rhode Island, when the British troops landed there; and for thirty bushels of potatoes, taken for the use of the troops	13 05 00

God save the United States of America.

General Lee to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Pompton, 7th December, 1776.

Dear Sir:—As there is now no doubt of the enemy's directing a considerable force towards your island, my duty to the public, and my regard for the welfare of your colony, in particular, urge me to every expedient which may be serviceable to you; and I must entreat you not to impute the freedom with which I shall offer my thoughts upon this occasion, to a petulance of disposition, but to the most pure and disinterested zeal.

I have, sir, from what I have observed of the New England troops, the highest confidence in the valor of your men, and common run of your officers; particularly those who are of the younger part. They have activity and fire, and in general, more knowledge than those advanced in years; who are not only destitute of knowledge,

but incapable, from a certain rustiness of mind and temper, of acquiring any. In fact, the only advantage of years in any profession, is, that it enables us to add to our stock of knowledge. But if we do not avail ourselves of thedayswhich nature has made a present of to us for this purpose, the more years have passed over our heads, the more disqualified are we, for the profession of a soldier of any rank.

Now, it unfortunately happens in New England, that to the most disqualified, the highest trusts are committed. To speak directly, the appointments of generals in your provinces, threaten destruction. But in fact, it is impossible that you should have men equal to this arduous task. Theory joined to practice, or a heaven-born genius, can alone constitute a general. As to the latter, God Almighty indulges the modern world very rarely with the spectacle; and I do not know, from what I have seen, that he has been more profuse of this ethereal spirit to the Americans, than to other nations.

But to come to the point: Rhode Island will probably be attacked; your men and younger officers are good, but I am persuaded you have no man with you, capable of conducting an army; no man who has sufficient knowledge as an engineer.

I have therefore resolved to send a gentleman, with whose great talents, activity and zeal, I am well acquainted; his name is Malmedy, a Frenchman. I entreat, if you cannot give him the entire command, to be directed by his counsels. You must excuse his heat of temper, at times; as it is derived from a noble source, that of enthusiasm for your cause. Procure for him an able interpreter; and treat him, as I am sure you will, with all the respect and attention he deserves. God bless you, sir, and—

Believe me to be most devotedly, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

To Governor Cooke.

P. S. I believe I shall send you Col. Varnum; but I hope you will continue to gfve Mr. Malmedy high colonial rank, which will lead him to Continental.

General Malmedy to General Lee.

Providence, 10th December, 1776.

My General:—I could not arrive till the 6th, owing to the difficulty I met with in some places, to procure horses; as soon as I arrived, I sent the letter which you entrusted me, to the Governor.

Accept, sir, my warmest thanks for the recommendation with which you have honored me; and be assured I shall exert my utmost endeavors to render myself worthy the opinion and goodness you have expressed in my behalf. The Governor desired me to view the lines of circumvallation which were opened on the right bank of the river, by Mr. Crow. They are drawn on that side quite around the town. They appeared to me, to be at too great a distance from the town, and too extensive; and from the difficulty of defending them, on a sudden emergency, and by reason of the great number of men requisite for their defence

You know, My General, how dangerous such lines are; they have heretofore been found useless in many places; although traced out with great judgment. I proposed to the gentlemen to draw others within them, and I perceived they were satisfied with the utility of this, and agreed to it; I changed the defences, and brought the posts nearer; and possibly, My General, when they are finished, you will think them capable of being defended; they were desired by the people, to quiet their fears. I asked last night for orders to see Howland's Ferry, which you particularly recommended to me. This morning I wait for instructions.

I cannot give you a true idea of the distribution and arrangement of the troops.

They are not yet settled. I always view with pleasure the great number of beautiful towns which every moment present themselves to view. I can never believe the enemy will be able to overrun this country without great difficulty. You have doubtless an account of their numbers and positions.

You were pleased, My General, to request those gentlemen to give me the rank of colonel, which they immediately granted to me. It is very flattering to me, to owe my promotion to you. The qualities you possess, and the deserved reputation which you enjoy, render this infinitely precious to me.

It is of great importance, My General, to me, to be commissioned by Congress, if you desire it, before the 1st of January, in order to be older in rank, than a number of others. Permit me this morning, I beseech you, to beg the favor of you to make this demand for me as soon as possible. My acknowledgments for the favor, shall equal the respect with which— I am, My General,

Your most humble, and most obedient servant,

MALMEDY.

To General Lee.

William Ellery, Delegate from Rhode Island in the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Philadelphia, December 10th, 1776.

Sir :—Since the enemy took possession of Fort Lee, General Washington, with the division under his immediate command, hath been constantly retreating, until they have at length passed the Delaware; and I suppose mean to make a stand on the banks of the river, opposite to Trenton.

To prevent their being hemmed in at Hackensack, they passed the river of that name, and the river Pasaick, and retired to Newark. The enemy advanced; and upon their approach, our army, being insufficient to withstand them, retreated to Woodbridge; the enemy followed. From thence, our army marched to Brunswick; the British army soon appeared on the side of the Raritan, opposite to that town. A cannonade ensued, but without any hurt on either side, saving the killing of an Hessian officer, by one of our cannon shot.

As the river is fordable, it would not do to continue there. Our troops decamped, and marched to Princeton, where General Washington left a body of twelve hundred men, under Lord Stirling, and with the rest moved to Trenton, and sent over the Delaware his principal stores, to secure them from the enemy. After this was affected, he sent a reinforcement to Lord Stirling; and hoping that he should be joined by the militia of the Jersey and this state, and by General Lee; who, it was said, with his division, had passed the North River, and was advancing to join him, intending to make a stand at Princeton; but by a strange dilatoriness, and the confusion which took place in the Jersey, on the enemy's penetrating their state, and the lukewarmness (not to give it a worse name,) of this, the enemy had approached Princeton before a sufficient number of militia from these states had joined General Washington, to enable him to make an effectual stand there; he therefore retreated to Trenton, and crossed the river, with his army, last Saturday night. On Sunday, the enemy appeared at Trenton, and a cannonade ensued, as at Brunswick. Yesterday, Generals Putnam and Mifflin came to town, and inform that the enemy had disappeared from Trenton; but they could not tell whither they were gone.

I imagine we shall soon see them in that part of the Jersey, opposite the city, and perhaps hear the thunder of their cannon and mortars, and feel the effects of shot and bombs. We don't hear of a fleet yet in the Delaware, which I have for some time ex-

pected. I imagine the enemy dare not venture it, for fear they shall have ice, as well as *chevaux-de-frise*, to encounter.

I hope we shall be able to keep them out of this state; and we should be able to do it, if the country would exert themselves with a tenth part of the spirit which the city hath manifested on this occasion; or if General Lee should join General Washington with five or six thousand men, which I most devoutly wish for and expect. Where he is, or what delays his coming, is unknown.

I find, by a private letter, from Newport (for I have [not] had intelligence of a higher nature, for a long time), that General Lee had written to our state that he thought that the embarkation at New York, was intended for Rhode Island; and that this intelligence had thrown the town of Newport into great confusion, and that the inhabitants were all upon the wing.

We have heard of transports being prepared to receive troops various ways; and for six weeks past; and that sometimes troops were really embarked; and sometimes that they have sailed for South Carolina or Rhode Island; but I cant't find that they have ever embarked any troops; nor do I think they will, for either of these places, while they pursue such high game, and mean to secure the posts and places they have, and may, possess. They have not men enough to spare, at present; nor do I think they will have them this winter, for any distant expedition. However, as I have often said, it is wise and prudent to be on our guard.

Captain Garzia, who will hand you this letter, cannot wait a moment longer, which obliges me to close abruptly.

I am, with great respect,

Your Honor's most obedient, humble servant,

WM. ELLERY.

To Nicholas Cooke, Esq.

General Malmedy to General Lee.

Providence, December 20th, 1776.

Sir:—On my arrival hither, I delivered your letter to the Governor, and without soliciting any promotion, offered my services.

The Congress of the state have immediately granted me the rank of colonel, which gave me great satisfaction. Two hours after, having more attentively perused your letter, and being determined by another circumstance, they conferred upon me the rank of brigadier general, which I acknowledge was yet unmerited. Is there any reason to fear, sir, that the promotion which is an act of mere favor contains but the seeds of my disgrace; and that those gentlemen, if the Continental Congress should hesitate, have prepared for me but an humiliating situation at the very time they intend to load me with their favors? Is there a probability of my not keeping that rank? If I do my duty, it would seem somewhat unjust. That promotion was entirely unsolicited by me.

Fondly believing that Congress will attend to those observations, I entreat you will point them out to that body in a striking manner.

I am, with respect, sir,

Your most obedient, and most humble servant,

MALMEDY.

To His Excellency General Lee, at the army of the United States of America, in the Jerseys, or elsewhere.

General Malmedy to General Lee.

Providence, 20th December, 1776.

My General:—I had in your orders on the 1st, that I should go to Howland's Ferry, which you particularly recommended to me.

The gentlemen of the committee imagined that Warwick Neck was more important, since the enemy are in Rhode Island. I returned the same evening. I have traversed all near to the point of Connecticut, all the neck of Warwick. I cannot perceive in all that part the possibibility of hindering the enemy from making a descent. The banks throughout, are easy of access, and the vessels can come close to the land. There is, however, an advantageous situation for a camp upon the high ground, from whence we can hinder the enemy from forming and withdrawing themselves from the fire of their cannon. It might serve as a camp of observation. On my return, I gave a particular account of this matter.

You knew, My General, the situation of the town of Warwick. It is mere folly to attempt to defend it, in case the enemy makes a descent in its neighborhood. I there found some works begun. I thought it my duty not to oppose the desire of the commandant. We have therefore continued to prolong them, with some regularity, adapted to the ground.

The same night I returned to Providence, and gave an account to the Governor of the difficulty of defending the town, and that the post ought to be evacuated. I have sent him an order of retreat for the detachment, with the out-guards, and requested him to drive from Pawtuxet the great number of cattle and forage, which are on the Neck. I cannot doubt but from its situation, that is the place where the enemy will make their descent, if they land.

I think, My General, that after making efforts at Pawtuxet, and all along the river, we ought to defend Providence, and there engage them. I presented to the Governor four reasons to support this determination. I believe the place where I am, will, in a month, be out of danger of a *coup de main*. In that case, a general who shall command a force, supporting his left, and extending obliquely on the right, will cover Boston, and that province; and I do not believe the enemy dare enter Connecticut, and by that means separate themselves from their vessels, which is their place of arms; nor are they so numerous, as to render themselves masters of the river. I beg pardon, My General, for giving you this account of my arrangements, especially in a country where you are much better acquainted with. Allow me the indulgence granted to a scholar, who makes essays on your pieces, and whose feeble observations you can easily rectify.

The county of Pawtuxet, is, and will always be, interesting. I pray you to assemble some troops there, and to order a number of fascines, which can readily be found at hand, where occasion requires.

The Governor appears to approve of my opinion, and has requested me to continue to give it on all matters. The little disposition I have seen in this town, relative to troops, in this time of perplexity and danger, when all ought to be in a state of activity, has determined me to present a regular distribution of the regiment, and an order of service. I thought it necessary to send them accompanied with letters, and some sentiments in honor of this country. I here enclose you a copy of my first letter, and the order of service.

The gentlemen here are polite. I cannot but think myself honored with the testimonies they have given of satisfaction on my conduct; and I am particularly flattered with the rank they have given me. But, My General, I do not see that they have done the smallest thing in the matter I propose to them, nor even in those things which ought not be deferred a moment. Be pleased to put a favorable interpretation on what I

have the honor to say, and believe I give this detail only from the desire I have to see proper disposition made for the defence of this country.

Notwithstanding the proximity of the enemy, and the ease with which they may land, I do not see above six or seven hundred men at Warwick, one thousand or eleven hundred here; four hundred citizens at the most, ready to take arms, and only one company of artillery. The colonels of the regiment do not know where to rendezvous, in case of alarm; I see no posts established; I see no artillery in motion, nor any preparations for that purpose. No exercise at cannon, notwithstanding the great want of instruction.

Mean time, the enemy are ten thousand. They do not make any general movement; but they can in one tide, embark in flat-bottomed boats, and land at Warwick Neck, and arrive at Providence in four hours. That town is worth such an attempt at this moment. It is very important, on account of the great quantity of merchandize and ships in its port. I cannot account for the conduct of the English generals, if they have good intelligence. The people here give themselves up to a lethargic idea, because they are not numerous, and because they serve as a defensive post to Rhode Island. The Americans ought to fear the allusion; for these two months it has been very destructive.

General Lincoln arrived here the evening before last. I hope he will put things in order. The next day, at 10 o'clock, he set out for Bristol and Howland's Ferry, without my knowing of his journey.

I am sensibly affected with the disappointment, not having yet a lodging or a horse, I waited on the committee. My interpreter informed them of my sensibility of not knowing of the departure of General Lincoln, and that I had not yet taken a view of what I proposed.

They answered with the same politeness as ever, that he desired me to see the place, and proposed to make a tour with me; and that he desired Mr. Varnum to inform me of this. However, I was not informed as to what I proposed; they were absorbed in business. It is a misfortune in a government, when military affairs are in the hands of the legislative authority. These are related, but ought in their particular execution, to be independent of each other. I have been well satisfied as to a lodging; but I cannot be supplied with horses. I thought it my duty, sir, to give you a particular account. You have sent me with letters of business and confidence. You have, perhaps, informed Congress, and have possibly a reliance on my zeal and good will. I will be very unfortunate, if, in the execution of what I am charged with, I find them useless; and this cannot but appear by the actual situation of things.

I fear I shall not hereafter be thought worthy of any confidence; and I am particularly jealous of losing yours, and that of the Congress. I beg you will inform Congress of the true situation of affairs. If, My General, I have expressed too great a degree of sensibility in this portrait, I know the goodness with which you have honored me; and I beg you will correct any thing amiss, or which may displease. "*Honi soit qui mal y pense.*"

I cannot too often repeat, My General, the civilities I have received from these gentlemen. I owe them all my services, and they are but a small mark of my gratitude. I do not know how I shall be employed here. I beg you to recollect the expressions in your letter, and your pleasure when you sent me here. I have not yet had a word of orders. To-day Mr. Lincoln is arrived. Mr. Varnum is a brigadier general. I have rank of him, in this province, I should be very glad to know the line of service to which I ought particularly to be designed. I am no engineer by profession. I have some knowledge, and some little abilities. I will finish the open lines with diligence, because they are useful; and because there is but one man here, who knows that kind of work.

I shall apply myself to every thing that depends upon me, in this country; but I beg you will not confine me to that profession; I can execute another with more ad

vantage. Be so kind, My General, as to consult Congress, and inform me what is your and their intention respecting my services, and inform the Governor, to whom you have recommended me here. In whatever manner you dispose of me, I will not neglect any of the duties which my condition, emulation and honor prescribe. These are the pretensions, these the reasons to which I resign myself.

I should go to-day to Bristol and Howland's Ferry, but it snows to such a degree, that there is no travelling. I should be glad to be under your immediate orders, if there are any appearances this spring. I am told half of the fleet is in Virginia; perhaps you are there. I am sorry to be at such a distance from you.

I am, &c., MALMEDY.

To Gen. Lee.

Robert Morris to General Washington.

Philadelphia, December 21st, 1776.

Sir:—Notwithstanding there are several British men-of-war cruising in our bay, the Continental sloop Independence, commanded by Lieut. Robinson, has pushed through, and got up here yesterday afternoon. There are on board eight hundred and fifty-six blankets, which were intended, with many others now expected in, for the use of the new enlistments; but the inclement weather and the severe duty the troops under your command have to perform, induces me to think these blankets should be applied to their use. In this matter, however, you will please to judge and act as you see fit; for I shall send them to the camp for your orders, so soon as the weather will permit them to be landed.

There is also arrived in this sloop, a quantity of cloths, which I shall put into the hands of Mr. Mease, commissary, to have made up immediately. There are also nine hundred and nineteen muskets on board. These, I suppose, you do not want; and I will send them out of town, to the other stores, unless you signify a desire for any other application of them.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that Mr. Deane, in his letter of the 30th September, received by this sloop, says he looks upon a French war as inevitable. He expects to furnish us with ample supplies for thirty thousand men, and a noble train of artillery, mortars, &c.; so that if you can but drive our enemies back to New York, for this winter, we may hope for much better things next spring than we have experienced of late.

I find my presence so necessary here in several departments, that I shall stay as long as I can with safety; but as I am possessed of public papers, that must never fall into the hands of the enemy, I should be glad of a line from you whenever you think it would be best for me to retire; and if you have any commands here, in which I can be serviceable, be assured of my ready attention. Your several despatches to Congress, have passed through my hands, and I have informed them fully of such things as have come to my knowledge, respecting public matters.

Poor Lee, I pity him, exceedingly; and feel much for the public loss in him. Should you hear any thing of the treatment he meets with, I should thank you or Mr. Tilghman, for a line on that subject. I fear he will meet with insupportable insults, and if so, his situation must be worse than that of the damned.

I have been told to-day, that you are preparing to cross into the Jerseys. I hope it may be true, and promise myself joyful tidings from your expedition. You have my sincere prayers for your success; as nothing would give me greater pleasure than to hear of such occurrences as your exalted merit deserves.

I have the honor to remain,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

ROBERT MORRIS.

To His Excellency General Washington.

Robert Morris to General Washington.

Philadelphia, December 23d, 1776.

Sir :—I had the honor to receive your obliging favor of yesterday, by Colonel Moylan. The contents give a most melancholy aspect to our affairs; and I wish to Heaven, it may be in our power to retrieve them.

It is useless at this period, to examine into the causes of our present unhappy situation, unless that examination would be productive of a cure for the evils that surround us. In fact, those causes have long been known to such as would open their eyes. The very consequences of them were often foretold, and the measures execrated by some of the best friends of America; but in vain. An obstinate partiality to the habits and customs of one part of this continent has predominated in the public councils, and too little attention been paid to others. To criminate the authors of our errors, would not avail; but we cannot see ruin staring us in the face, without thinking of them.

It has been my fate to make an ineffectual opposition to all short enlistments, to colonial appointments of officers, and to many other measures that I thought pregnant with mischiefs; but these things either suited the genius and habits, or squared with the sentiments of some states that had sufficient influence to prevail; and nothing is now left, but to extricate ourselves from the difficulties in which we are involved, if we can. Let us try our utmost; man can do no more. I shall urge Mr. Mease to go on as briskly as possible with the clothing; but it's impossible for him to make much progress, as most of the tailors are at the camp. The muskets and other stores shall be sent out of the city, and such papers as I can spare, shall be sent away. The fleet has always been my particular care; and at this time, I am exceedingly anxious for its safety; but the difficulty of getting any thing done, is inconceivable. Most of the tradesmen necessary to finish the Delaware, are at camp. I have applied to the Council of Safety to order some few of them down; although they wish, yet they fear to do it, lest the rest should follow.

I have now under my care, the Randolph and Delaware frigates; the brigantine Andrew Doria; sloops Hornet, Independence, and Fly; and schooner Musquito; all Continental armed vessels; besides several valuable merchantmen; all which, I wish to get out to sea, and think it might be effected, if every man concerned would exert himself in his department. I try to give them spirits, and invigorate their exertions, all in my power.

The enemy have six sail cruising about our capes, and keep a special look out. Notwithstanding this, the brigantine Andrew Doria, Captain Isaiah Robison, passed through them, and got safe up this day. She left St. Eustatia the beginning of this month, and on the passage took a sloop of twelve guns, fitted out by Admiral Gayton, at Jamaica, agreeably to orders of the lords of the admiralty. She also took a snow from Jamaica, and ordered both prizes in here; but it's most likely they will be retaken. Before I quit this subject, permit me observe, that there is a Lieutenant Josiah, of our navy, prisoner, and now at New York; and we have prisoner at Yorktown, in this state, a Lieutenant Bogan, of their navy. I could wish an exchange between them could be effected. There is also a Doctor Hodge, surgeon to Colonel Cadwalader's battalion of Pennsylvanians, now prisoner in New York, a young man of much merit; and his abilities in his profession, would render him very useful, could he be exchanged.

The sloop taken by the Andrew Doria, was commanded by a Mr. Jones, who has the King's commission as master and commander. He behaved bravely; and I am told he says Lord Howe will be desirous to redeem him. I suppose his rank to be

equal to a major's or lieutenant colonel's; which I mention, that Your Excellency may advert to it, if you wish for an exchange of any particular officer of merit, of that rank. This brigantine was sent by the secret committee for clothing and stores, and has brought in the following cargo:

Two hundred and eight dozen pair of woolen stockings; one hundred and six dozen pair of worsted stockings; two hundred and fifteen sailors' jackets; twenty-three great coats; fifty pieces Dutch plains; thirty pieces (nine hundred yards,) flannel; forty-five pieces blue, brown and white cloth; four hundred and sixty-three blankets; two hundred and eighteen pieces seven-eighths linen; four hundred and ninety-six muskets; three hundred and twenty-six pair pistols; two hundred half barrels powder; fourteen thousand one hundred and one pounds lead.

I have enumerated these articles, that you may judge what part is wanted for your army; and your orders shall be complied with. I shall only observe that these imports were intended for the new levies; but circumstanced as you are, I think you should judge solely of the propriety of applying them to our present exigencies.

The brig Lexington and sloop Sachem, may be hourly looked for, with further supplies; also sundry merchantmen; but I dread their approach to our capes. They took a French snow, in sight of the Andrew Doria, who protected her as long as it was possible.

I am fearful General Lee may suffer for want of money, if the resentment of British officers runs as high as they have threatened; threfore, to prevent present distress, I enclose herein, a set of exchange, drawn by the late Governor Eden's secretary, Mr. Smith, on Messrs. Thomas Eden & Co., for £100, sterling, which I beg you will convey by a flag to General Lee, with an assurance of a further supply, whenever he wants it. I have endorsed the bills, and flatter myself that many gentlemen now in New York, to whom I am known, will advance the General the money upon them. I have no doubt but this matter may be so managed, as that General Lee will certainly get these bills and the money for them, without putting you to much inconvenience; and— With the utmost esteem, I remain, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,
ROB'T MORRIS.

To His Excellency General Washington.

P. S. Having sent sent my stores out of town, this is the best paper I can command at present.

William Ellery, Delegate from Rhode Island in the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Baltimore, December 25th, 1776.

Sir:—I did myself the honor of writing to you, by Captain Garcia, the 10th instant; since which, nothing new hath taken place that I know of, in the army, excepting the capture of General Lee, by a party of the enemy's light horse, on the 13th.

By some fatality, as General Sullivan in a letter to Congress, expresses himself, General Lee, with his family, took lodging in a farm-house, about three miles distant from the army under his command. Some tories informed the enemy of his situation. They sent off eighty light horse to take him, who surrounded and attacked the house. The General, with his family, made a manly resistance, but were finally obliged to submit, and the poor General was carried away the captive.

A fatality, strange indeed, for some time past, hath seemed to attend our affairs. The loss of Fort Washington, when twenty-six hundred of our men were captivated in an inglorious manner; the loss of Fort Lee, by surprise, with a great quantity of

stores, and the capture of the General, who was honored by his name being given to that fort; and, in short, all our affairs, have in a strange manner proceeded. I hope in God better fortune will attend our future operations.

General Howe's army, by our last advices, had extended itself along the Delaware, towards the north principally, with an apparent design to pass the river. Gen. Washington had posted his army along the river, so as to obstruct their passage. Some of the militia of Pennsylvania, the lower counties, and Maryland, are about to reinforce, and some have actually reinforced, his army; and General Sullivan, on whom the command of the division late under the command of the unhappy Lee, is devolved, was on the 13th of this month, marching to join him. When they join, they will together make a respectable army, sufficient to prevent Howe's entering Pennsylvania. Indeed, the armies must before this, have formed a junction, if General Sullivan's division hath not been repulsed by General Howe. We expect to hear from Philadelphia every moment; if any thing uew shall arrive before I am obliged to close my letter ———

You have doubtless before this, heard of the removal of Congress to this place. This is the first opportunity I have had, and this is circuitous (via Boston), to inform you of it. The enemy was so near, and affairs in the city in such confusion, that it was improper and unsafe to continue there, and for reasons too long for a letter. Baltimore was fixed upon as the most suitable place for holding Congress in, for the present. I should like the place well enough, if it was less distant from the army, less dirty, and less expensive.

It is long since I have heard from my constituents. What is doing, and how matters stand in our state, I know no more than an inhabitant of the moon; although it would be beneficial to have every information seasonably.

We have an account that a fleet, with eight or ten thousand men, have gone to Newport, and that the island was evacuated by the inhabitants; but that the enemy had not landed. By a letter from General Wooster to Congress, of the 8th of this instant, we are informed that the fleet on the 6th, were off New London. If it be true that so large a force hath gone to Rhode Island, something more is intended, in my opinion, than the bare taking the town of Newport for winter quarters. I suspect that they mean to take possession of Providence, and from thence penetrate into the Massachusetts Bay.

If they attack Providence, it will be by land. They will pass up the bay, to Warwick Neck, perhaps, then land, and march to the town. There ought to be a good redoubt at Warwick Point, to check their landing, and give time for troops to be arrayed, to oppose their progress. I think that this division of the enemy's army, affords us a fine opportunity to make an efficacious stroke on them.

As soon as I had notice, that I thought I could depend upon, I immediately proposed to the New England delegates to write to General Washington, informing him that a fleet, with a large body of troops, under Clinton, had sailed for Rhode Island, and desiring him to send General Gates or Greene, with such brigadier generals as could be spared, to take the command and direction of the troops that might be raised in New England, to repel the enemy from the Island, or oppose their making any inroads into the country. It was agreed to, and a letter written. The General told us in answer, that he had received previous notice, and had sent orders to Generals Arnold and Spencer, who were then at Albany, to repair to New England, and take the command of the yeomanry that should muster on this occasion. I hope that the militia will universally turn out, and not suffer the enemy to enter and ravage our state as they have done the Jersey. I hope they will turn out in such numbers as to be able to give an effectual blow to the enemy in our quarter.

If the army under Clinton should receive a mortal wound from the brave New Englanders, it would, in my opinion, bring the war to a speedy close; whereas, if this op-

portunity of the division of the British army should be neglected, or not improved, the war, in all probability, will be protracted to a great length, if not speedily issued in our destruction, in the destruction of all we hold dear; for we have good reason to think that a reinforcement of twenty thousand men will be sent over next spring.

By a letter from an unknown, but I suppose good hand, read in Congress this day, it appears that the court of London had attempted, and were attempting by every means they could devise, to procure aid from every power in Europe, or to induce them to a neutrality; and the writer of the letter gave it as his opinion, that what they could collect in Germany, together with recruits raised in England, Scotland and Ireland, would amount to about that number; and that Russia would not furnish them with any men. From hence, the necessity appears that we should act in every quarter this winter, with the spirit of men contending for an invaluable prize.

By expresses from Philadelphia, received this day, it seems that the militia of that state begin to rouse themselves, and are collecting very fast, to reinforce Gen. Washington. I have some hopes that Howe will be driven out of the Jersey this winter. If this should take place, and the New England states should give Clinton a sound drubbing, we then need not fear what Britain, with all her mercenaries, should attempt.

There are brave, enterprising spirits in Providence. They burned a Gaspee. They may burn the British fleet. I hope they will make the trial, and every effort to destroy both fleet and army. I imagine that there are a number of seamen in port, belonging to the navy of the United States, as well as privateers. These men, I should think, could be easily induced to enterprise any thing. They are brave, and well know that if the British fleet is suffered to remain in our bay, there will be an end to privateering, by which they have made immense gain.

What I have written on this head, goes on this supposition, that a fleet, with a large body of troops, is at Rhode Island; and flows from that warm regard I have for the state of Rhode Island, and the glorious cause in which we are embarked. In this cause, I am willing to exert, and have exerted, my best abilities; for this, I have suffered great anxiety; have left wife and children, and the sweetest and closest connections in life.

Where my wife and children are, I know not. I hope they have escaped from Rhode Island, and are not fallen into the hands of the enemy. If they should have been so unhappy, I hope the state will interfere in their behalf, and procure their release.

I wish that an additional delegate may have been chosen, and that he may have set off for Congress. If it should not have been done, I hope it will be speedily done, and that an addition might be made to the salary already voted; and I believe the Assembly will not think me mercenary, nor an addition unnecessary, when they are informed that I am obliged to give $6 a week for boarding myself; and that every article of living is doubled within a year or two. I ask no more of the state than sufficient to give me a decent support while I am in its service; and I know the generosity of my constituents too well to doubt of their disposition to do what is right in this instance. To that generosity and good disposition, I readily submit this matter; and—

Am, with the sincerest regard,

Their, and Your Honor's friend, and humble servant,

WILLIAM ELLERY.

To Governor Cooke.

William Ellery, Delegate from Rhode Island in the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Baltimore, December 31st, 1776.

Sir :—I received your letter of the 30th of November, and laid it before Congress, and took particular notice of the very weak condition of our state.

Congress are sensible of its situation ; but as they have, by a late resolve, which the President will, by this express, transmit to you, with a circular letter, in which the reasons for their doings are contained, delegated to, and invested General Washington with the whole military power for a limited time, application will probably be made to him in every instance which respects the military department. With regard to the other parts of your letter, which were ordered to be laid before Congress, as they required no particular observation, none were made upon them, either by Congress or me.

I was extremely glad to receive so much particular information into the affairs of our state, and hope you will continue to make me acquainted with such doings of the General Assembly, from time to time, as may be thought proper to be communicated. I should be glad to know whether we have any powder mills in the state. Whether they are going, and supplied with salt petre to keep them in motion. At present, indeed, if any should have been erected in the state of Rhode Island, they may be stopped by the enemy having entered our state ; but I hope so large a force will soon be (if it should not be already) collected, as to give security to the town of Providence, and prevent them from making any incursions into our state, to confine them to Rhode Island, if not expel them from thence ; in which cases, all mechanical business and manufactures may proceed.

In my last, of the 24th of this instant, notwithstanding the gloomy appearance of our public affairs, I still expressed hopes that Gen. Washington might be reinforced by the division under General Sullivan, and the militia from the state of Pennsylvania and thus reinforced, be enabled to meet and drive the enemy from the Jerseys. Gen, Sullivan, with his division, and some of the troops from Ticonderoga, whose time of enlistment had expired, under General Gates, have joined General Washington ; and also, some of the Pennsylvania militia. This, and the glorious success of an ente prise well planned by our general, and as well executed on the morning of the 26th have elevated my hopes, and give good reason to expect that our cruel foes may be driven from Jersey.

The President, I suppose, will send you an account of that enterprise ; but lest he should omit it, and as we have been for some time unsuccessful, and this noble exploit may exhilerate the spirits of my countrymen under their present situation, I can't forbear enclosing you a hand-bill of the particulars, with some additions on the reverse, made from Gen. Washington's letter of the 27th. I heartily congratulate you on this noble, this unexpected event—an event which, though by no means decisive, yet by the spirit it will give to the troops in actual service, to the militia in the neighboring states, to our army, and to all the United States, is of the greatest importance. I hope, and do not doubt, but that it will have a fine effect upon the troops which may be collected to support our state, and urge them on to some such enterprise, if they should have an opportunity to execute it.

Among other things that fell into our hands by the victory at Trenton, were four standards ; one of which is now in the room where Congress is held, and directly be fore me. It is a Hessian silken standard. The battalions which were suprised and subdued, were the regiments of Landspatch, Kniphausen and Rohl. I would describe t, if I were acquainted with heraldry, and if it were important enough to engage your

attention. In the centre of a green field of about four or five feet, is a decorated, gilted circle, which encloses a lion rampant, with a dagger in his right paw, and this motto in the upper part of it, "*Nesit Pericula*;" the crest is a crown, with a globe and cross upon it. In the corners are gilted decorated circles, with crowns, and globes and crosses on their tops; and in their middle "F. L.," in cyphers. A broad blaze extends from the corners to the piece in the centre; and three small blazes are placed in the field; one in the middle of the side next staff, one in the opposite side, and one in the midst of the lower side or bottom. How well the motto suits the conduct of the troops where it was once waved, I shall leave, and you, sir, with this sincere wish, that the troops in our state may acquire like trophies; that this successful, happy enterprise, may prove an omen of future decisive victory over our barbarous foes.

I continue to be, with the greatest esteem and consideration,

Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

WILLIAM ELLERY.

P. S. Enclosed, you have a newspaper, which contains the first number of "Crisis;" an animated, useful performance, and which ought, in my opinion, to be re-printed every where in America.

The express not going out so soon as was expected, gives me an opportunity to send you a printed copy of Gen. Washington's letter, and the return of the prisoners, &c. What I have called the standard, may be only one of the colors mentioned in the return. There is a report that a body of our troops, under General Heath, had taken possession of Hackensack and Fort Lee, and captured one hundred and thirty prisoners, a number of tories, &c., &c. I wish it may prove true. There indeed appears to be good ground to credit it. I was just now told by a gentleman who had conversed with the aid de camp, who brought General Washington's letter, that His Excellency's horse was wounded under him; and that we had taken more prisoners than were mentioned in the return, and more arms. W. E.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq.

William Ellery, Delegate from Rhode Island to the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Baltimore, January 7th, 1777.

Sir:—I received your letter yesterday, by an express from Philadelphia. Your express was so fatigued, that he could not proceed immediately on; and therefore another was sent forward with it.

I laid your letter and the resolve before Congress this morning. They are disposed to do every thing in their power for the benefit of the states, and have taken such measures as they thought might be effectual to procure the assistance you wish for. The measures that have been taken to prevent the enemy from penetrating the country, and for expelling them from our state, give me vast satisfaction.

I hope the troops in our quarter will act on the offensive, and with spirit. Offensive operations have proved successful; while our defensive measures have been attended with loss and disgrace. I have in my last, given you an account of General Washington's success at Trenton, on the 26th of last month.

I wish I could give you the particulars of his success at the same place on the 3d instant. By private letters by the post yesterday, it appears that he had gained a complete victory over a large body of the enemy; pursued them to, and took posses-

sion of Princeton, and was still pursuing, captivating and destroying them when the last accounts reached Philadelphia.

An express is expected this day; but as one sets off immediately for the last mentioned place, who will deliver this to your express, who was so fatigued that he could not come on; I cannot wait for the particulars; and have only time to add, that I heartily congratulate you on our late successes in the Jerseys; that I wish equal success to the troops in our state; and that—

I am, with great respect,

Your Honor's most obedient, humble servant,

WM. ELLERY.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke.

P. S. I have requested Mr. Morris, one of the Pennsylvania delegates, to send you the particulars of the last action, by your express.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

Baltimore, January 10th, 1777.

Gentlemen:—The necessity of filling up the army with the utmost expedition, has induced Congress to direct me to request that you will, as soon as possible, inform them what success the recruiting service has met with in your state, towards raising the troops required by a resolve of the 16th of September, which was formerly transmitted to you. I am therefore most earnestly to entreat your compliance with this resolve, as speedily as possible.

I have the honor to be your most obedient, and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Honorable the Assembly of the state of Rhode Island.

The Governor of Rhode Island to John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress.

Providence, February 3, 1777.

Sir:—I am favored with yours of the 10th ult., desiring a return to be made to Congress of the number enlisted into the Continental battalions, assigned as the quota of this state.

In answer to which, I am to inform you, that very soon after the appointment of some of the officers, we were alarmed with the appearance of a formidable fleet in the Sound, whose destination we had no doubt was for this state. This turned our attention towards our immediate defence. As it was absolutely impracticable to raise with expedition, forces to serve during the war, the General Assembly concluded to raise two battalions of seven hundred and fifty men, each; and one regiment of artillery, of three hundred, for fifteen months, who are enlisted for the service of this state, and the other United States.

So large a body of the enemy being within this state, hath compelled us also to keep one-third of all the fencible men in the state under arms. Add to these, the loss of Rhode Island, so great a part of the state, and that we have not had until very lately more than one recruiting officer for the Continental battalions, in the state. All which causes, have prevented any considerable enlistment.

About fifty men have been enlisted; and permission is now given to those that enlisted for fifteen months, to enter into the Continental battalions, which I have no doubt will furnish a considerable number. The General Assembly will meet to-morrow, and do every thing in their power, to promote this most important service.

I am, with great esteem, sir,

Your most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Hon. John Hancock, President of Congress.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the fourth Monday in March, 1777.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, the appointment and commission of Brigadier General James Mitchell Varnum, in the service of this state, has been superseded by his being appointed, by the Honorable the Continental Congress, to the same rank in the Continental army; this Assembly do therefore, with grateful remembrance of his services,—

Vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that he be dismissed from the said appointment; and that he be paid to the time his pay commenced in the Continental service.

This Assembly, taking into consideration the embarrassed circumstances of this state, and the great expenses daily accruing for its defence; and His Excellency Gen. Washington having directed two generals of the Continental army, to take command of the troops stationed here, whereby it is unnecessary to retain in service general officers at their separate expense; wherefore, this Assembly, retaining a very grateful sense of General West's zeal in the cause of his country, and of his conduct as an officer; and not doubting his utmost exertions in their service on any future occasion,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that he be, and hereby is, dismissed from the office of brigadier general, in the service of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that none of the members of the General Assembly receive any allowance for their attendance the first day of the session, excepting such only as reside more than twenty miles from the place at which the Assembly shall be convened, and shall set out on the first day of the session.

It is voted and resolved, that Colonel Jonathan Arnold, Thomas Wells and John Northup, Esqs.; Colonel Sylvester Child and Gideon Hoxsie, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to explain the intention of this Assembly, in an act for regulating the prices of labor, &c.; and for making such alterations therein, and addition thereto, as to them shall appear necessary; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to His Honor the Governor, to issue his warrant for forthwith apprehending the following persons, who are suspected of carrying supplies to, and keeping up a correspondence with, the enemy, viz.:

Charles Slocum, Ebenezer Slocum and —— Slocum, sons to Charles Slocum; and Jonathan Lawton, who is suspected of being employed by the enemies of this state in raising recruits for their service; and that they be brought before this Assembly, as soon as may be.

Whereas, our relentless enemies have possessed themselves of the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown, whereby the freemen of those towns are deprived of the privilege of meeting at their usual places, for the choice of general officers, and deputies, to represent them in General Assembly, and such town officers as they have chosen on proxing day;—

It is therefore resolved, that those persons who were known to be freemen, in either of those towns, to the number of seven, at the least, from each town, respectively, be, and

they are hereby, authorized and empowered, to meet at the places hereafter mentioned, to wit:

Those of the town of Newport, at the state house, in Providence.

Those of Portsmouth and Middletown, at the house of William Durfee, in Tiverton.

And those of Jamestown, at the house of Matthew Allen, in North Kingstown, on the third Wednesday in April next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of choosing general officers, deputies, and town officers, aforesaid, for their respective towns; they conducting such choice agreeably to the usages and practices in their respective towns, heretofore; and that this resolve be inserted in the next Providence Gazette.

Whereas, Mr. William Hull, of South Kingstown, in the county of Kings, yeoman, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that he is bondsman for Jonathan Hazard, paymaster to one of the Continental battalions, in the sum of $20,000; conditioned, as he thought, for his, the said Jonathan's duly accounting for the sum of $10,000, which he was then about to receive out of the general treasury, and no more; that he is since informed that, by virtue of said obligation, he is accountable for whatever sums of money the said Jonathan may receive, who hath since received large sums out of the treasury; and that being desirous to be released from said obligation, he applied to the said Jonathan, and requested him to account for the moneys he had received; which he then promised should be done, but hath neglected so to do; and thereupon, the said William Hull prayed this Assembly, that said Jonathan may be required to render an account of the moneys by him received; that no further sums be allowed him as paymaster, as aforesaid; that he be compelled to procure other bondsmen, or be dismissed from his office, that so he may be discharged from his aforesaid obligation; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that no further sums of money,

or any other articles, be allowed and delivered to Jonathan Hazard, paymaster to one of the Continental battalions, until he hath procured other sufficient bondsmen for his faithfully executing the trust reposed in him.

That he forthwith render an account to the standing committee, of what money or other articles may have been paid and delivered him, as paymaster, as aforesaid.

That said committee make report to the council of war, as soon as may be; and that upon the said Jonathan's duly accounting for whatever money or other articles he may have received as paymaster, as aforesaid, said obligation be delivered to the said William Hull.

It is voted and resolved, that the Colonels Richmond, Lippitt and Cook, be, and they are hereby, requested to call upon the officers of their respective regiments, and inquire of them in what manner the small arms, delivered the soldiers of the said regiments by this state, are disposed of; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., and James Helme, Joseph Hazard and Sylvester Robinson, Esqs., the committee heretofore appointed to transact the affairs of the Indians, make report of their proceedings to this Assembly, at the next session; and that a copy of this resolve be transmitted to them, as soon as may be, at the expense of the tribe.

An Act assessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £16,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that a tax of £16,000, lawful money, shall be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, to be levied, collected and paid into the general treasury, on or before the 1st day of August next, in bills of public credit, emitted by the Congress and this state.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the poll tax shall be eight shillings; being sixpence for

every £1,000; and that all male persons, of twenty-one years of age and upwards, excepting settled ministers of the gospel, and officers and soldiers in the service of the Continent, who are enlisted into the Continental battalions, and those enlisted by this state for fifteen months; and the officers, marines and mariners on board any armed vessels in the service of the Continent, or of this state, shall pay the poll tax.

Whereas, this Assembly, at the present session, hath made and passed an act, ordering a tax of £16,000, to be assessed and levied upon the polls and ratable estates of the inhabitants; and whereas, from the distressed situation of many parts of this state, it hath been thought necessary to deviate from the established rule of proportioning the same to the several towns; by which deviation it may happen that some town may be overburthened,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the apportionment of the said act upon the several towns, in the said act made, shall not be drawn into precedent, or be considered as a rule for apportioning any future tax, but shall be re-considered; that any town, which shall be overburthened, shall be relieved and reimbursed what they shall appear to have paid over their just proportion, as soon as a proper estimate can be made to ascertain the same; and that such towns as shall have paid less than their just proportion, shall pay such sums as they shall be deficient, into the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Stephen Bowyer, of North Kingstown, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that his being obliged to remove off the farm he now improves, as by a late act he is warned to do, will put him to great difficulty and distress; he having a large family to maintain, and the season too far advanced to admit of his getting into business, to support them.

And further represented, that about a twelve-month past, he being suspected on account of his connections with his

late landlord, Mr. Rome, publicly made and signed a declaration of his principles, in terms equivalent to the test, with which his conduct has been perfectly consistent.

And that having, as he presumed, fully answered the intentions of the test-act, he apprehended he had complied therewith, without conceiving that there was occasion for his also subscribing the test; which he is ready to do, if required; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to permit him still to remain upon the said farm, as a tenant to the state; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said Stephen Bowyer, in his aforesaid petition contained, be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that during the time the enemy are in possession of the island of Rhode Island, and the courts of justice, for the county of Newport, are obstructed thereby, that the inhabitants of the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton, be, and they are hereby, allowed to bring forward and prosecute all actions, whether real, personal or mixed, to the inferior court of common pleas, for the county of Bristol, in the same way and manner as though the two towns, aforesaid, were annexed to, and belonged to, the county of Bristol; any law, custom or usage, to the contrary, in any wise, notwithstanding.

Whereas, Mr. James Robinson laid before this Assembly an account, wherein he had charged the state for a quantity of flour, being part of that seized by order of General Varnum; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said flour be released, it having been previously purchased by Peter Phillips, Esq., commissary.

It is voted and resolved, that the commanding officers of the several companies of volunteers, who engaged in the service of this state, in consequence of a resolve of this Assembly, at the last session, for making an attack on Rhode Island, make out their abstracts, under oath, and present

them to either of the committees of safety, within this state, for payment, agreeably to said resolve; and that this resolve be published in the next Providence Gazette.

Whereas, at the June session, A. D. 1776, George Stillman was appointed captain and Peleg Saunders, lieutenant, of the third company of militia, in the town of Westerly; but by some means or other, said appointment was not recorded,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that said appointment be now confirmed, and considered as having taken place at said June session; and that they be commissioned, accordingly.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the delegates to represent this state in the Continental Congress, shall be elected and chosen by the freemen at large, in the same manner as the Governor and assistants of this state are chosen, to wit:

By the freemen putting in their proxy votes, on the third Wednesday in April, annually; and in case any vacancy shall happen, by death, or otherwise, the General Assembly shall fill up such vacancy for the remainder of the year.

Whereas, Ray Sands, Esq., was, by this Assembly, at the September session, 1776, appointed lieutenant colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings, in the room of Samuel Seager; and the secretary, by mistake, entered him as chosen colonel; and a commission was issued, accordingly; and Charles Dyer, Esq., who was colonel of the said regiment, having accepted very soon after, of a commission in a regiment, for three months, upon Rhode Island, which prevented the mistake from being discovered; and the said Ray Sands having, in consequence of his said commission, upon the appearance of the enemy's fleet, and ever since, acted as colonel of the said regiment; which error ought to be rectified;—

It is voted and resolved, that the thanks of this Assembly be given to the said Ray Sands, for his spirited and vigilant conduct, as colonel of the said regiment, aforesaid.

That the said Charles Dyer have the command of the same, during the remainder of the year.

That, from the known zeal of Col. Sands, for the public good, this Assembly hope and expect that he will act as lieutenant colonel of the said regiment; in which case, the commission granted to Thomas Potter, Esq., will be vacated.

That the secretary forthwith transmit a copy of this vote to Col. Sands, and the said Thomas Potter, Esq.; and that Lieutenant Colonel Sands be commissioned, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that Thomas Potter, Esq., be, and he is hereby, dismissed as a lieutenant colonel in the militia, he having been appointed, through mistake, to that office; and that he be dismissed as major; the time of the enlistment of the regiment to which he was appointed, having expired.

Resolved, that each of the three divisions of the militia, alarm and independent companies, heretofore drafted agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly, passed at their session in December last, be drafted into two divisions each, under the direction of the field officers of each regiment, or commander of each independent company.

And that those of the militia and alarm companies be formed into companies, to be commanded by officers proportioned by the said field officers, and assigned to said companies; and those of independent companies, be proportioned and assigned to said companies, by officers of the said companies.

And that the draught of every division, as aforesaid, be made by the respective field officers, and commanders of independent companies, on Friday, the 4th day of April next

That immediately upon said drafts being completed, the field officers, and commanders of said independent compapanies, shall cause the one-half of said first division to be formed into companies, apportion to each their proper officers, and cause them to march to such part of the shores within their respective counties as they shall direct, on or before the 6th day of April next.

And it is further resolved, that the division on actual duty, be relieved at the expiration of fifteen days from their entering on said duty, by the other divisions, in the order in which they have been, and shall be, drawn out; and that the field officers, and commanders, aforesaid, be, and they are hereby, directed to cause relief to be made, and done punctually, at the time each division shall have completed its duty, as aforesaid.

And it is further resolved, that the several commanders of the respective companies, so drafted, as aforesaid, cause their several companies to be completely equipped with arms, and every other necessary accoutrement; and that if any in said companies, who have been adjudged by the town council in their respective towns, to be unable to furnish themselves therewith, shall appear not duly equipped, the commanders of said companies are directed to apply to said town councils, who are hereby empowered to furnish them with arms and accoutrements, agreeably to the aforementioned resolve.

And it is further resolved, that the officers who shall serve in said divisions, shall be entitled to, and receive, the same wages and rations as are allowed and paid to officers of equal rank in the Continental service; and that the non-commissioned officers and privates also receive the same pay and allowance, for the same and similar service, as those in the Continental army.

That no adjutants be appointed; but their duty shall be done and performed by the sergeant-majors; and that but one quartermaster be allowed to a regiment.

And it is further resolved, that each and every person by law obliged to bear arms, who, when duly notified, and called out to duty, shall neglect to appear in person, completely equipped with arms and accoutrements, shall be liable to pay, as a fine, for each and every day's neglect, the sum of five shillings, lawful money; to be levied and collected by warrant or distress, from the captain or other com-

manding officer of the company, for the time being, directed to the clerk, unless the person so deficient, shall, before the expiration of said fifteen days, pay into the town treasury, in the town in which he resides, the fines due for his not appearing, as aforesaid, and shall produce a receipt, therefor, from said town treasurer, to said captain, or commanding officer.

And it is further resolved, that the respective colonels of militia and alarm companies, and commanders of independent companies, shall make return of said draught to the council of war, or to General Spencer, within two days after said draught is completed; and if any officer shall neglect or refuse to do his duty, and make said draught, agreeably to this act, and make due return, thereof, within the time prescribed, he shall forfeit and pay as a fine, for such neglect, the sum of £6, lawful money, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, before any court of record within this state.

And it is further resolved, that the secretary transmit printed copies of this act, by express, to the several colonels of militia, and commanders of independent and alarm companies, as aforesaid, on or before the 2d day of April next.

Resolved, that such of the inhabitants of New Shoreham, on Block Island, and now on the main, as choose to return to their homes, have liberty to return, under the inspection of the commanding officer of the district from whence they shall depart, until the 10th day of April next; and those now living in said town, who are desirous to remove to the main, are permitted so to do, within the time abovesaid; after which, all intercourse shall cease between the inhabitants of said town and those on the main (saving only commissioned officers in the Continental battalions, for the purpose of recruiting), until further orders from this Assembly.

Whereas, it is recommended by Congress, to pass laws to prevent the counterfeiting the tickets, issued by Congress,

in the present state's lottery; and for the punishment of those who who may be convicted of counterfeiting or forging any such ticket,—

Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that any person or persons convicted of said crime, be liable to suffer the pains of death, without the benefit of clergy; with confiscation of all and singular the real and personal estate of the offender; and that the same, when recovered, be paid into the general treasury, for the use of this state.

An Act in addition to, and amendment of, an act, entitled "An act to prevent monopolies and oppression, and for the better supply of our troops," &c.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that from and after the 10th day of April next ensuing, the price of farming labor, viz.: for mowing and reaping in their seasons, shall not exceed three shillings and sixpence per day; and in the three winter months, one shilling and sixpence per day; and at all other times of the year, two shillings per day; that for the three summer months, the price of labor by the month, shall not exceed forty-eight shillings, when found; and at all other seasons in the same proportion, compared with day labor.

That common labor, in the town of Providence, shall not exceed four shillings and sixpence per day; they finding themselves; and three shillings, when found.

That the price of Indian corn in the towns of Providence, Bristol, Warren, Tiverton and Little Compton, shall not exceed four shillings per bushel; and in the compact part of the town of East Greenwich, three shillings and ninepence per bushel; and rye five shillings per bushel; and in all other places in this state, corn shall not exceed three shillings and sixpence per bushel; and rye, four shillings and sixpence per bushel; meal, at the places where meal has usually been sold, shall be at a price in proportion, accord-

ing to the usual customs; and good rye and Indian bread, shall not exceed fourteen shillings for every one hundred and twelve pounds weight; and in that proportion, for every other quantity.

That the price of stone lime shall not exceed at Providence, $4, per hogshead.

That fresh fish shall not exceed, at the places where they are caught, one penny one farthing per pound; in the town of Providence, twopence half-penny; and at all other places within this state, two pence per pound.

That oysters shall not exceed two shillings per bushel, at market.

That Jamaica spirits, by the gallon, per hogshead, shall not exceed nine shillings; the seller finding the cask; and by retail, in the same proportion as other West India rum.

That West India rum be sixpence, and New England, four pence per gill; that in case any person shall sell any of the above spirits under proof, he shall forfeit the value of the same, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within this state.

That oats be fourpence per pottle.

That good merchantable men's shoes shall not exceed nine shillings per pair.

And that beaver hats shall not be sold for more than forty-eight shillings apiece.

And be it further enacted, that in case any inhabitant or inhabitants of any town within this state, more especially the families of soldiers in the service of their country, shall be distressed for want of any necessary articles of life, and which are within their towns, and shall be witheld from sale by the persons to whom the same belong, to monopolize and engross the same, upon complaint thereof made to either of the members of the town council or overseers of the poor in such town, under oath, he shall certify the same, and the quantity necessary to relieve such distressed person or persons, to any justice of the peace within said town; who, on receipt thereof, shall issue his warrant to the town

sergeant, or either of the constables of said town, authorizing him, if necessary, to break and enter any store or other place, and seize out of the hands of such monopolizer and engrosser, so much as shall be certified to be necessary, as aforesaid, and deliver the same to such distressed person or persons, at the stated prices; and the moneys for which such articles shall be sold (after deducting all lawful cost and charges accruing on the process, aforesaid), shall be returned to the owner of the article or articles so seized and impressed.

And it is further enacted, that so much of the act, aforesaid, as relates to the price of farming labor, Indian corn and rye, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

And be it further enacted, that a committee be appointed by each of the towns within this state, on the third Wednesday in April next, to provide necessaries for the families of soldiers belonging thereto, who shall engage in the public service within this state, and deliver the same to such families at the price affixed by law, without any additional expense to such soldiers; they lodging with, or remitting money to such committee, for that purpose.

And be it further enacted, that the above, and foregoing regulations of the several articles and things be in force, any law to the contrary, notwithstanding; and that this act be published in the next Providence Gazette.

Whereas, this Assembly is informed that $10,000 hath been received by Mr. Jonathan Hazard, from the deputy paymaster general of the eastern department, for discharging the bounties allowed by Congress to the officers and soldiers who should enlist in the Continental battalions, ordered to be raised by this state; which hath since been delivered by the said Jonathan, to Brigadier General Varnum, as appears by his receipt now before this Assembly.

And whereas, a large sum of money hath been advanced by this state for the purpose, aforesaid, which was to have been re-paid when money should be received for paying said bounty from the Continent;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Mr. John Brown be, and he is hereby, requested to apply to General Varnum for said sum of $10,000, and upon his receiving the same, that he give his receipt, therefor, and pay it into the general treasury.

Whereas, in the distressed situation of this state, attacked by a powerful detachment of the British army and navy, His Excellency General Washington ordered to our assistance two generals of distinction in the Continental army; previous to which, the General Assembly of this state had appointed Maj. François Lellorquis de Malmedy, a brigadier general, in the pay and service of this state.

And whereas, since the arrival of the generals, first mentioned, considering the very heavy burthen of expense, which is rapidly increasing upon us, as well as the very small number of troops in this state to be commanded, it is incompatible with the dictates of prudence for this state to continue general officers in pay, at their particular and separate expense,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that this Assembly do hereby dismiss the said Brigadier General Malmedy from the service of this state, with a very grateful remembrance of his abilities, activity and zeal; and of his unwearied exertions in the cause of America, in general, and the service of this state, in particular; and as a further testimony of their favorable opinion of General Malmedy's services,—

It is further voted and resolved, that a present be made him of the sum of £50, lawful money.

It is further voted and resolved, that the secretary authenticate a copy of this resolve, and deliver the same to Brigadier General Malmedy, together with the sum of £50, abovesaid.

And it is further resolved, that Mr. John Smith be, and hereby is, directed to settle the wages and rations of Brigadier General Malmedy, up to the 10th day of April next, and pay him what shall be due on that behalf; and that he also pay the sum of £50 to the secretary, to be pre-

sented to General Malmedy, with the copy of his vote of dismission, above mentioned.

It is voted and resolved, that whenever any business of importance shall make it necessary to call the General Assembly, the Governor is hereby required to call the same in the county where the General Assembly last sat.

Whereas, the test or declaration, ordered to be subscribed, by an act of this Assembly, by the inhabitants of this state, hath been tendered to many of said inhabitants individually for subscription, who have refused to subscribe the same, or or produce a certificate, agreeably to the requisitions of said act, and have thereby manifested themselves unfriendly to the liberties of this, and the other United States,—

It is therefore resolved, that said inhabitants who have refused to subscribe said test, when tendered to them, as aforesaid, or produce said certificate, be not permitted in future to subscribe said test, or declaration, without permission first had from this Assembly; any act to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding; and that this resolve be published in the next Providence Gazette.

Resolved, that those commissioned officers in the fifteen months' battalions and train, who have not enlisted, and shall not enlist, the following number of men, viz.:

A captain, twenty; a first lieutenant, sixteen; a second lieutenant, twelve; and an ensign, ten men; and make the proper returns, thereof, by the 1st day of May next, shall be dismissed the service.

And it is further resolved, that it be recommended to the commanding officer on each post, to detain on constant duty those officers only, who have already completed their enlistments, according to the numbers above mentioned; and admit the rest in turn, to recruit within said term, in order that they may have it in their power to comply with this resolve; and it is enjoined upon all, both field officers and others, to use every endeavor to fill the said regiments by the said 1st day of May.

It is voted and resolved, that the general election, for the

present year, be held at Providence; that the second session of the General Assembly, be held at South Kingstown; the third, at East Greenwich; and the fourth session, at Providence; and that every session of Assembly, by adjournment, shall in that manner, be continued in rotation (taking place by seniority of counties), allowing, during the time that the General Assembly cannot be convened upon the island of Rhode Island, the same number of sessions, by adjournment, to the county of Providence, as are allowed to both the counties of Kings and Kent.

An Act for numbering all persons able to bear arms within this state.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the following persons be appointed committee men, for the towns to which their names are respectively ascribed, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, to wit:

For Providence,	Mr. Martin Seamans,
" Warwick,	Mr. James Jerauld,
" Westerly,	Joseph Crandall, Esq.,
" North Kingstown,	Joseph Coggeshall, Esq.,
" South Kingstown,	Thomas Potter, Esq.,
" East Greenwich,	Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq.,
" Jamestown,	Benjamin Underwood, Esq.,
" Smithfield,	Daniel Mowry, Esq.,
" Scituate,	Mr. Joseph Davis,
" Glocester,	Captain Asa Kimball,
" Charlestown,	Joseph Hoxsie, Esq.,
" West Greenwich,	Samuel Hopkins, Jr., Esq.,
" Coventry,	Samuel Wall, Esq.,
" Exeter,	George Peirce, Esq.,
" Bristol,	Daniel Bradford, Esq.,
" Tiverton,	Walter Cooke, Esq.,
" Little Compton,	Philip Taylor, Esq.,
" Warren,	William T. Miller, Esq.,
" Cumberland,	John Dexter, Esq.,

For Richmond,	Captain Simeon Clarke, Jr.,
" Cranston,	Nehemiah Knight, Esq.,
" Hopkinton,	Thomas Wells, Esq.,
" Johnston,	Richard Eddy, Esq.,
" North Providence,	Captain Joseph Olney,
" Barrington,	Mr. Henry Bowen.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said committees make regular lists or registers of the names of all male persons inhabiting or residing within their respective towns:

From sixteen to fifty years of age, whom they shall judge able to bear arms.

From sixteen to fifty years of age, whom they shall judge unable to bear arms.

From fifty to sixty, able to bear arms.

From fifty to sixty, not able; and from sixty, upwards.

That lists be made of those who are transient, or resident persons, in the same manner; as also of those belonging to the towns within this state, in the possession of the enemy; of negroes and Indians, in the same manner; and also of those who have taken the affirmation, or produced certificates from the Friends' Meeting, to excuse them from military duty; as also, of those who have enlisted into the Continental battalions, and into the service of this state for fifteen months; setting forth the names of all the persons numbered in separate counties.

And after the lists, aforesaid, are made, the said committees shall make oath, before some magistrate, or justice of the peace, that the same hath been justly and truly made, according to the best of the knowledge of such committee man; and said lists, so made and sworn to, shall be returned by the said committees to the General Assembly, at their next session, to be holden at South Kingstown, on the 17th day of April next.

And be it further enacted, that in case either of the said committees shall refuse to serve, that either of the deputies

of such town where such committee resides, be empowered to appoint other suitable persons in their places.

And it is also enacted, that the commanding officers of the two Continental battalions raised by this state, and of the two regiments and train of artillery enlisted by this state, for fifteen months, be requested to make return to the General Assembly, on the said 17th day of April next, of the soldiers they shall have then enlisted, with the towns to which said soldiers belong, in order that the General Assembly may then know the strentgh of the state.

And it is further enacted, that the secretary, as soon as may be, furnish the said committees with copies of this act, and with blank columns, for the purposes aforesaid.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Nathan Miller, for sundry supplies for the troops stationed at Bristol	103	11	04
Cromel Child, for sundry materials by him furnished for, and labor done on, the flat-bottomed boats	58	00	04
William Cozzens, for making a number of tents for the state; and for twine furnished for making the same	32	14	00
Colonel John Low, for victualling a number of soldiers; and for six days' service in the militia	5	02	00
Dr. Caleb Fisk, for attendance upon, and sundry medicines by him administered to, two sick soldiers	3	02	04
Dr. Caleb Fisk, for medicines by him administered to, and attendance on, sundry sick soldiers, in the Continental service	4	19	11
Mrs. Fear Read, for victualling sundry soldiers, belonging to Capt. James Williams's company	1	10	00
Mrs. Mary Franklin, for billeting a number of soldiers belonging to Capt. James Albro's company	18	02	07
Mrs. Mary Franklin, for the ferriages of a number of soldiers	3	15	04
Executors to the estate of John Waterman, for writing paper and pasteboards, for printing the last emission of paper money	36	01	00
Edward Carr, on account of damages done by the soldiers to his house on the island of Conannicut	6	02	00
Stephen Jenckes, in addition to the £12, heretofore allowed for a gun, purchased of him, for a present to the Oneida Chiefs	3	00	00
Isaac R. Bliven, for medicines for, and attendance on, a soldier, belonging to Captain Ethan Clarke's company	1	11	10
Jesse Knight, for the hire of his mare, to draw artillery	3	00	00
John Hawkins, for his time and expenses in apprehending Ebenezer and Charles Slocum, and Jonathan Lawton	4	18	11

	£ s. d.
Silas Downer, for eleven days' attendance on the council of war, as clerk.	6 12 00
Josiah Arnold, for damage done by the soldiers to his house, furniture and stock, on the island of Conannicut	41 10 0½
James Brown, for entertaining a company of soldiers; for keeping one yoke of oxen and horse, and for wood burnt by the said company	2 03 03
William Vincent, for twenty-four days' service, in attending the sick of Col. Noyes's regiment; for his board, horse keeping, and for medicines provided for said regiment	15 13 03
Benjamin Carr, for damages done to his house, on the island of Conannicut, by the soldiers quartered therein	8 02 04
Joseph Austin, for a cedar boat, oars and sails, taken by Captain Sheldon, for the service of the state	5 00 00
Nathan Miller, for a whale-boat, taken by order of Colonel Child, for the use of the troops, when Wallace landed on Prudence	4 10 00
Nicholas Cooke, for a number of narrow axes, delivered for the use of the state	10 10 00
Robert Carr, for the ferriages of a number of soldiers and their baggage, and of a number of horses	4 08 07
John Kelly, for the ferriages of a number of soldiers, &c	15 09 04
Thomas Peck, for two blankets, delivered by order of the town council of Providence, towards equipping the poor of said town	2 08 00
John Carpenter, for one blanket, delivered by order of the town council of Providence, for equipping the poor of said town	1 04 00
Caleb Harris, for a number of blankets, scabbards and belts for bayonets, by him purchased, by order of the town council of Johnston, for equipping the poor of said town	12 18 00
Cromel Child, for sundry materials by him furnished for, and labor done on, the galley Spitfire	42 18 06
Samuel Wall, for four guns with bayonets, and three cartridge-boxes, purchased by order of the town council of Coventry	17 14 00
Robert Sheffield, for his services as an armorer, in the regiments commanded by Colonel Joseph Noyes and Colonel Ray Sands	18 11 09
Daniel Rodman, for a quantity of rum, sugar and other necessaries, by him supplied to the soldiers stationed at South Kingstown	16 19 00
Joseph Clarke, for damages done to his estate on Jamestown, by the troops stationed there	19 17 00
Joseph Congdon, 3d, for blankets, small arms and sundry other equipments, by him purchased by order of the town council of Charlestown, for equipping the poor of said town	18 07 06
Gideon Cornell, for four weeks' board of William Ware	2 08 00
Josias Lyndon, for his expenses to Providence, to attend on the General Assembly, as clerk to the house of deputies	1 14 00
William Channing, for his expenses at Providence, in attending on this Assembly, as assistant clerk of the lower house	1 16 00
James Congdon, 3d, for taking two depositions in a complaint exhibited against Nathan Kinyon, one of the members of this Assembly	15 08
Nathaniel Mumford, for his services as one of the standing committee of audit	6 00 00
Thomas Greene, for his services as one of the standing committee for auditing accounts	5 08 00

	£	s.	d.
William Potter, for one cord of walnut wood, by him provided for the use of the state house in Kings county	18	00	
Jeremiah Albro, for his expenses to Westerly, to carry a letter to Mr. Ethan Clarke, by order of this Assembly; for his attendance on this Assembly as waiter, at the present session, and for candles, &c.	2	03	09
Ebenezer Tefft, for cleaning the state house, in Kings county, and for his attendance as a waiter on this Assembly, at the present session	1	14	00
Beriah Brown, Jr., for his services, &c., to convey Ebenezer and Charles Slocum to Major Clarke, by order of this Assembly	1	04	00
Paris Gardner, for one month's wages as adjutant of Col. Sands's regiment,	6	00	00
Nathan Miller, for ration bills, &c., paid by him to sundry officers	8	00	03

God save the United States of America.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.

Providence, March 18, 1777.

Sir:—Your Excellency's favors of the 1st and 3d instant, have been duly received, and will be laid before the General Assembly, at their meeting, next week.

This state, from its early and continued exertions, hath been greatly exhausted of arms. Of all those furnished to Continental troops raised by us, and to the great number of seamen raised for the fleet, none have been returned, excepting from Col. Richmond's battalion, almost all which were lost upon Rhode Island. The invasion of the enemy hath also obliged us to put arms into the hands of those poor persons in the militia, who were not able to purchase.

In this case, we were under the necessity of applying to the Continental agent, in the Massachusetts, of whom we received eleven hundred and seventy-six, and no more; some part of which, hath been delivered out to the militia from that state, who came here unarmed. Should these arms be taken from us, it will be impossible to furnish the Continental battalions now raising here; and I am persuaded the General Assembly will wait your further orders before they will be delivered. And when Your Excellency shall have considered the matter fully, and more especially, that all our ports have been effectually blocked up ever since the beginning of December, which hath prevented us from importing any, I have no doubt you will countermand your order.

We have already given every encouragement in our power to men to enlist into the Continental battalions; and am sorry to inform you, that there are but about four hundred enlisted. Nor in the present state of affairs, do I see any prospect of our being able to complete them. To oppose the enemy at Rhode Island, the states of New England agreed to keep up an army of six thousand men; of which, we were to furnish eighteen hundred. The other states having always fallen short of their quotas, from eighteen to twenty-five hundred, we have been obliged to keep up between twenty-five hundred and three thousand. At present, the enemy consist of six Hessian and two British regiments, making near four thousand men; and we have not in the state, but five hundred and fifty-one effective men, besides our own troops.

Your Excellency is sensible that near a quarter part of the state is possession of the enemy. Besides those enlisted into the Continental battalions, the brigade for fifteen months consists of about five hundred; and one-third of all the remaining fencible men are upon monthly duty, by rotation. I need not add, that this situation creates insuperable difficulties,

In my next, I will send you the best account I can, of the exchange of prisoners from this state. Of those sent by us, it will be exact.

Methods are taking by General Varnum, to have the two Continental battalions raising by this state, inoculated as early as possible. But I cannot think, while so large a body of the enemy are upon Rhode Island, and we left so defenceless, that Your Excellency will order them away.

I am, sir, Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on Thursday, the 17th day of April, 1777.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Mr. Stephen Franklin, Jr., preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that yesterday, he laid before them the reasons why he, his father and mother, were off Block Island; and likewise for his and their not returning before the time limited by act of Assembly for that purpose, had expired; and further represented, that his father has a large family, great part of which are entirely helpless, and depend upon their parents for support; and that if they should be detained, the family must consequently suffer; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to grant to him and his parents permission to return home; and the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that Jonathan Arnold, Henry Ward and Daniel Mowry, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to revise, alter and amend an act for the relief

of tender consciences; and that they report the same to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Joseph Noyes and Messrs. George Babcock and Enoch Haszard, be a committee, to receive the stock belonging to the farm lately improved by Mr. Silas Niles; and that they appraise the same, and deliver it to Messrs. Stephen Champlin and Job Watson, to whom said farm hath been leased; and that said committee apply to said Niles for an inspection of the lease he received from Mr. Samuel Sewall, that the quantity of stock, &c., may be ascertained which was to be delivered by the said Niles, at the expiration of said lease.

It is voted and resolved, that Joshua Babcock, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to forward to Westerly, a quantity of powder, &c., belonging to this state, which is now on the road.

Whereas, this Assembly, at the last session, empowered such inhabitants of the town of Newport, as were freemen thereof, at the time it was taken possession of by the enemy, to meet at Providence, on the 16th instant, and choose deputies to represent the said town; who accordingly met, and among others, chose Paul Mumford, Esq.; who having purchased an estate in Barrington, and removed there, with his family, is also elected a deputy for the said town of Barrington; whereby, a vacancy is made in the deputies of Newport;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that such inhabitants of the said town of Newport, as were freemen, thereof, at the time it was taken possession of, as aforesaid, consisting of a number not less than seven, be empowered to meet together, at the state house, in Providence, on Tuesday, the 6th day of May next, at five o'clock, in the afternoon, to choose another person in the room of the said Paul Mumford.

It is voted and resolved, that Job Comstock, Esq., be empowered, as guardian, to have the oversight of the negroes lately belonging to George Rome; and that three-quarter

parts of the profits of their labor be paid by the said Job to the said negroes; and that the other part be retained by him, in behalf of the state.

Whereas, Mrs. Sarah Slocum and her family are suspected of having communicated intelligence, and afforded supplies, to the enemy, at Newport,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Mr. Lodowick Updike be requested and empowered forthwith to remove the said Mrs. Slocum and her family, from his farm, in North Kingstown.

That if said Lodowick shall refuse or neglect to remove them within ten days, the sheriff for the county of Kings be, and he is hereby, directed to remove them; and that she, with her family, reside in such parts on the main, as are distant not less than two miles from the salt water.

Whereas, the draft of a letter to the speaker of the lower house of Assembly of the state of Massachusetts Bay, was laid before this Assembly, and the same being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that said draft be, and hereby is, approved; that a fair copy, thereof, be made; and that His Honor the Governor sign the same, and forward it, immediately.

It is voted and resolved, that Colonel Joseph Noyes be, and he is hereby, appointed to forward to Westerly, a quantity of powder, &c., belonging to this state, in the room of Joshua Babcock, Esq., who declines.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Jonathan Arnold, John Brown and John Smith, be a committee, to determine what allowances shall be made to the officers and soldiers that have been, or shall be, wounded in the Continental service, agreeably to a resolve of Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that no tax be assessed upon the inhabitants of the towns now in possession of the enemy, and who have removed into other towns, for their personal estates; and that they be discharged from any tax al-

ready assessed upon their personal estates, which is not as yet collected.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Reynolds be, and he is hereby, empowered to purchase, in either of the New England states, blankets and cloth, sufficient for making one thousand suits of clothing for the troops ordered to be raised within this state; that he draw money out of the general treasury, to pay for the same; and that he make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the towns of East Greenwich, Warwick and Coventry, be permitted to inoculate for the small pox, under the direction of their respective town councils; subject to the same restrictions and provisions, as heretofore enacted, by this Assembly.

Whereas, His Excellency General Washington hath ordered the Continental troops within this state, immediately to march to join the army in the Jerseys, which renders it necessary that they should forthwith be furnished with blankets, &c.; and whereas, this Assembly is informed, that Messrs. Nicholas and John Brown have in their possession about eight hundred blankets, belonging to the Continent,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said Nicholas and John Brown be, and they are hereby, requested to deliver said blankets to Mr. John Smith, for the use of said troops, that the orders of General Washington may be immediately complied with.

Whereas, Messrs. George Waite Babcock, Joseph Spencer Taylor, John Slocum and Christopher Pearce, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that having the welfare of their country at heart, and willing to support it with their lives; and having reason to think that the enemy are determined to make some excursion on the main, and well knowing that there is not a sufficient number of men to guard the town of Updike's Newtown, where there are many persons who are incapable of moving out with their effects, they have raised a company, consisting at

present of thirty-six men, including officers; and that by a majority of said company present at Updike's Newtown, on on the 14th day of April inst., they were nominated as officers to said company; and were requested in their behalf, to make application to this Assembly, to grant them a charter, with the same privileges as have been granted to other independent companies; and thereupon, the said petitioners prayed this Assembly to grant a charter to the said company, and commissions to them; and that they may be stationed in Updike's Newtown, where they will be ready to march, completely equipped, to any part of the shore where the enemy may land; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the petitioners, with such others as shall enlist with them, not exceeding sixty-four men, exclusive of commissioned officers, be incorporated into a separate and distinct military company, by the name of the Newtown Rangers, to be commanded by one captain, two lieutenants and one ensign.

That they be entitled to the same privileges as have been heretofore granted by this Assembly to the North Providence Rangers, and on the same conditions; and that the secretary make out a fair copy of the act incorporating the said North Providence Rangers (*mutatis mutandis*), to be signed by His Honor the Governor, and affix the seal of the state, as a charter for the said company of Newtown Rangers.

It is voted and resolved, that the first division of the second draft of the militia, and alarm and independent companies, heretofore drafted agreeably to the resolves of the Assembly, passed at their session in December and March last, be formed into companies, as are by said resolves directed; and that they march to such part of the shores within their respective counties, as shall be directed by the commanding officer, on or before the 24th day of this current April, properly equipped, to relieve those that are now

upon duty, and there to remain and do duty for fifteen days from the time they shall actually take the field.

And it is further voted and resolved, for their encouragement to exert themselves in the defence of their country, that a bounty of ten shillings, lawful money, be allowed to each non-commissioned officer and soldier of the said first division of the second draft of the militia, and alarm and independent companies, who shall do his duty; and that all fines which shall be incurred for delinquency, after deducting the cost and fees for collecting the same, shall be equally divided among the non-commissioed officers and soldiers doing duty, who belong to the same town with the delinquents who shall neglect to do duty.

And it is further voted and resolved, that in case of sickness and inability to do duty (which alone shall excuse any person), it shall be in the power of either of the field officers of the regiment of the district, to permit such a person to hire a man to do his tour of duty; and if such sick and unable person shall be so extremely poor in the judgment of such field officer, as to be unable to hire a person in his stead, that such field officer be empowered to remit such poor person's fine.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the other divisions of the independent companies, alarm companies and militia, so drafted, as aforesaid, relieve said division, agreeably to said resolves; and that they be entitled to the same wages and encouragement as are allowed said division, and be subject to the same penalties.

And it is further voted and resolved, that copies of these resolutions be immediately sent by express to the colonels of the militia and captains of independent companies.

It is voted and resolved, that the lists of the male inhabitants within this state, from sixteen years of age, and upwards, that have been taken and returned to this Assembly, agreeably to a resolve passed at the last session, be bound together, and lodged in the secretary's office.

It is voted and resolved, that for preventing unnecessary

expense, when the militia and alarm men of this state, or any part thereof, are called out to serve in the pay of this state, or of the United States, no more commissioned and non-commissioned officers shall be entitled to pay, than a proper number in proportion to the privates, that is to say:

For every company, less than thirty-six privates, one commissioned officer, one sergeant and one corporal.

For every company of more than thirty-six, and under fifty privates, two commissioned officers, two sergeants and two corporals.

For every company of more than fifty, and under sixty-four privates, three commissioned officers, three sergeants three corporals; one drummer and one fifer.

For every company consisting of more than sixty-four privates, four commissioned officers, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer and one fifer.

For every battalion of five hundred or more privates, three field officers.

For every battalion under five hundred, and not less than three hundred privates, a lieutenant colonel and a major.

For any number of privates, above one hundred and fifty, and under three hundred, one lieutenant colonel or one major.

For all regiments consisting of a number not more than one hundred and fifty privates, the eldest commissioned officer present, shall take the command of the whole.

That every officer on duty, shall be allowed the same pay that he is entitled to by his commission.

That to each regiment, consisting of not less than three hundred privates, pay shall be allowed for one adjutant and one quartermaster.

That any regiment consisting of less than three hundred privates, shall not be allowed either an adjutant or quartermaster, unless they be ordered, and shall actually march out of this state; but the common duties of those officers shall

be performed, when within the state, by the sergeant-major and orderly sergeants.

Provided, nevertheless, and it is further voted and resolved, that the commanding officer of the Continental troops within this state, for the time being, have liberty to call into service all such field officers as he shall deem necessary for the public service.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the several independent companies within this state, when called out to service in the pay of this state, or of the United States, shall be allowed pay for the same number of officers in proportion to the number of privates, as are in the foregoing resolve allowed to militia and alarm men.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that five hundred effective men be raised by the several towns within this state (excepting the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, New Shoreham and Middletown) for filling the Continental battalions raising by this state, on or before the 10th day of May next; that they be proportioned to the several towns, according to the number of polls; and that Messrs. John Northup, John Brown, Nathaniel Mumford, Sylvester Child, Charles Holden and George Pierce, be a committee to proportion the same, to the respective towns in the following manner, that is to say:

The whole number already enlisted, who are proper inhabitants of, or that belong to, the respective towns to which said men are to be proportioned, be added to the number of five hundred; and the proportion be formed upon that total, giving credit to each town for those already enlisted from such town.

It is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each town be empowered to give such a sum, over and above the bounties already allowed, as they can agree for, with the men enlisting, not exceeding the sum of £22, lawful money.

That exact accounts be kept of the moneys which shall

be expended by each town, as aforesaid, which shall be refunded to them, out of the general treasury; and that no further sum be given as a bounty by any town, either in behalf of the state, or at their own expense.

It is also enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the persons whose names are set down in the subsequent list, be appointed and empowered to receive, out of the general treasury, the several sums of money assigned to their names respectively, to advance the bounties allowed by Congress, and this state, to each soldier ordered to be raised by their respective towns, to wit:

Names of Persons appointed by the General Assembly to advance the Bounties allowed to the Soldiers of the State.

	Amount.
Mr. James Arnold, for the town of Providence	£792
Colonel Chad Brown, for the town of Glocester	1,628
Brigadier General West, for the town of Scituate	2,024
John Dexter, Esq., for the town of Cumberland	880
Nehemiah Knight, Esq., for the town of Cranston	616
Uriah Alverson, Esq., for the town of Smithfield	968
Captain Joseph Olney, for the town of North Providence	352
Charles Holden, Esq., for the town of Warwick	1,584
Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., for the town of East Greenwich	1,188
George Dyer, Esq., for the town of West Greenwich	924
Ephraim Westcott, Esq., for the town of Coventry	1,232
Major Sylvester Gardner, for the town North Kingstown	836
Immanuel Case, Esq., for the town of South Kingstown	1,100
Lieutenant Colonel James Babcock, for the town of Westerly	528
Joseph Hoxsie, Esq., for the town of Charlestown	484
Thomas Wells, Esq., for the town of Hopkinton	968
John Chapman, Esq., for the town of Exeter	1,056
Edward Perry, Esq., for the town of Richmond	748
Mr. Stephen Smith, for the town of Bristol	572
Caleb Harris, Esq., for the town of Johnston	572
Colonel Nathan Miller, for the town of Warren	572
Colonel Nathaniel Martin, for the town of Barrington	352
Perez Richmond, Esq., for the town of Little Compton	792
Benjamin Underwood, Esq., for the town of Jamestown	132
Colonel John Cooke, for the town of Tiverton	1,100

It is also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any town shall advance the said bounties to any person enlisted by them, who shall not pass muster, the loss, thereof, shall be borne by such town.

It is also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every person who shall be enlisted by any town, and lives in another town, shall be assigned to the town where he lives or belongs, as part of its proportion; such town refunding the sum paid to such enlisted person to the town which enlisted him.

It is also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each town in this state, which shall be deficient in raising its proportion of men, as aforesaid, shall pay as a fine to, and for the use of, this state, £10, for every soldier they shall be deficient in; to be recovered in any of the courts of record within this state, by the general treasurer, thereof.

It is also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if according to the proportion so to be made, as aforesaid, it shall appear that any town in this state, shall have furnished more soldiers who were inhabitants of such town than shall be thereby reckoned to them, they shall be allowed, and have credit given to such town, therefor; and upon enlisting the quota by this act assigned them, including those that have not been credited for, as aforesaid, they shall be excused from any fine to which they are liable by this act, for not raising the number reckoned to them, as aforesaid.

It is also further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that if in the said proportion, any town shall have credit given for more men, as inhabitants of such town, than they have actually furnished, such town shall be obliged to make up the number for which credit shall be erroneously given; and in case of neglect, shall be subject to the fine and penalties by this act imposed.

It is also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the secretary be, and he is hereby, directed to transmit copies of this act, and also of the act proportioning the men assigned to the respective towns, to the several town clerks in this state, to which the men so to be enlisted, are proportioned, within four days after the rising of this Assembly;

and that the said town clerks, excepting the town clerk of Warren, shall within three days after the receipt thereof, issue their warrants for convening the inhabitants of their respective towns, for the purpose of carrying this act into execution.

Whereas, Messrs. John Brown, Sylvester Child, Nathaniel Mumford and Thomas Holden, presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed to determine the Quota of Soldiers to be enlisted by each Town in the State.

We, the subscribers, being appointed to apportion to the several towns the number of soldiers yet remaining to be enlisted in the Continental battalions raising by this state, in order to make up the number, including those already enlisted, to one thousand men, do report:

That we have made a calculation from the rolls, returned from the several towns, and after crediting each town with the number of soldiers belonging thereto, which appears by the returns to have been enlisted, do find the quota yet to be enlisted by each town, to be as followeth, to wit:

Providence	18	Westerly	12
Glocester	37	Charlestown	11
Scituate	46	Hopkinton	22
Cumberland	20	Exeter	24
Cranston	14	Richmond	17
Smithfield,	22	Johnston	13
North Providence	8	Bristol	13
Warwick	36	Warren	13
East Greenwich	27	Barrington	8
West Greenwich	21	Little Compton	18
Coventry	28	Jamestown	3
North Kingstown	19	Tiverton	25
South Kingstown	25		

Captain Lewis's return not being made, we have drawn the proportions, without making any allowance to any town for what he hath enlisted.

JOHN BROWN, NATHANIEL MUMFORD,
SYLVESTER CHILD, THOMAS HOLDEN.

And the foregoing report, being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; and that the number of soldiers be raised by each town according to its proportion therein assigned.

It is voted and resolved, that the act of this Assembly for paying the members of the General Assembly, during their

attendance on the Assembly, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that William Potter and Daniel Rodman, Esqs., be empowered to let the lot of land in Point Judith, lately belonging to Mr. John Borland, deceased, on the best terms possible, to any person that has, or may subscribe the test.

An Act in addition to an act, entitled "An act for the relief of persons of tender consciences; and for preventing their being burthened with military duty."

Whereas, the invasion of this, and the other United States of America, by a powerful enemy, occasions great distress, and very heavy burthen of expense, upon the inhabitants; and whereas, many persons within this state, possessing property therein, have availed themselves of the act, aforesaid, and avoided contributing their equal and necessary proportion for the defence of our rights, privileges and estates; and from which they do, and will, derive, in all respects, equal benefit and protection with other subjects of this state, not exempted from personal military service; to prevent which, and that they shall in future bear their equal proportion thereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the captains of the several companies of militia and alarm men, in each regiment, shall make return to their respective colonels, or other commanding field officer, of all persons within the district of their said companies who have taken the affirmation, or produced certificates from the meeting of Friends, from time to time, upon any draft being ordered to be made from their said companies; which colonel, or other commanding field officer, shall cause them to be drafted in like manner, and in proportion to their numbers, as those of the several companies, aforesaid, shall be ordered to be draughted.

And the said colonel, or other commanding field officer,

shall, immediately after such draft, give in a list of all the persons, so drawn in each town, to the town council of such town; and thereupon, such town council shall depute and appoint one of their members immediately to hire so many able bodied men as shall equal the number returned, as aforesaid, and for the same term of time [as the persons, aforesaid, shall be drafted, upon the best terms he can, at the expense of the persons within their respective towns, so drafted, as aforesaid; each person so drafted, to pay the expense of hiring a person in his room; which members so deputed, shall make immediate return of the persons so hired, to the colonel, or other commanding field officer of the regiment to which they respectively belong; and shall, within two days after such return, give notice, thereof, to the persons within their respective towns, on whose behalf they shall so hire them, and of the sums they shall have advanced therefor, as aforesaid, and request them to pay the same.

And upon their refusal or neglect, for the space of five days, to pay the same, the town council of the town wherein the persons so refusing to pay, reside, and upon notice thereof, from their member, deputed, as aforesaid, is hereby empowered and directed to issue a warrant of distress, signed by their clerk, and directed to the town sergeant, or any of the constables, of the same town, to seize and distrain so much of the goods and chattels of the person or persons refusing or neglecting, as aforesaid, and living in, or belonging to, the same town, as shall be sufficient to pay the sum advanced to hire persons in their behalf, as aforesaid, and all lawful costs and fees; which warrant shall be returnable into the town clerk's office of the same town, within thirty days after the date thereof.

And the goods and chattels, seized and distrained, as aforesaid, shall be sold at public vendue, in the same manner as they are ordered by law to be sold, to satisfy military fines and forfeitures; and if any overplus moneys, arising from the sales of such goods and chattels, as aforesaid, after

deducting all lawful demands, shall remain in his hands, he shall lodge the same with the said town clerk, at the time he shall return his warrant, as aforesaid, to and for the use of the person from whom such goods and chattels shall be distrained.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case any person drafted, as aforesaid, shall be under the age of twenty-one years, and shall not have sufficient goods and chattels in his possession, whereupon to levy the said warrant, the officer to whom the same shall be directed, be, and hereby is, empowered to levy the same upon the goods and chattels of the parent or guardian of such delinquent minor, and therewith satisfy and pay all charge of hiring a person in the room of such minor, and all lawful costs and charges on that account.

And it is further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that for each person hired, as aforesaid, the person hiring him, shall be allowed six shillings, to be deducted out of the moneys arising from the sales of the goods and chattels of the person in whose stead he shall be hired, to be taxed upon the warrant, with the fees of the clerk, who shall have one shilling for each warrant by him granted; and the officer making the distraint, as aforesaid, shall be allowed ten per cent. upon the amount of the hire of each person, and upon the lawful costs, for trouble and his fees in collecting the same.

And it is further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, that every officer, whether civil or military, who shall refuse or neglect to comply with the duties required of him by this act, shall, upon proof and conviction thereof, forfeit and pay for each offence, £20; to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record, within this state, together with all costs of prosecution and conviction; one-half of which shall be paid to the prosecutor, and the other half into the general treasury, to, and for, the use of this state.

Provided always, and it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this act shall not extend to times of

general alarm, when the whole military force of this state shall be ordered upon duty together, and at the same time; but operate only when detachments or parts of each respective company, as aforesaid, shall be ordered to be drafted out or detached for actual service.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this act shall take place, and be in force within ten days; and that the secretary send printed copies, thereof, to each colonel or commanding field officer of the several regiments of militia in this state, to the several captains of the companies of the militia and alarm men, and to the several town clerks within this state, within six days from the rising of this Assembly.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, viz.:

James Williams, captain, in Colonel Angell's battalion, in the room of Captain Ephraim Bowen, who declines.

Samuel Hicks, first lieutenant, in Capt. Thomas Arnold's company, in Colonel Greene's battalion.

It is voted and resolved, that the colonels of the Continental battalions forthwith make a return of the names of the men enlisted into their respective battalions, and of the places of their nativity and residence, at the time of their enlisting, to the council of war; and that the said colonels, and the several town clerks within this state, be immediately furnished with a copy, hereof.

Whereas, a petition was preferred to the last session of this Assembly, by Mr. William Hull, requesting to be discharged from a certain bond, in which he became bound for Mr. Jonathan Haszard, paymaster to one of the Continental battalions, ordered to be raised within this state, for reasons in said petition set forth; and whereas, the said Jonathan Haszard hath represented to this Assembly, that he conceives himself injured by said petition; as the same contains a misrepresentation of facts, and hath prayed this Assembly, that the same may be inquired into; and that for that purpose, the said William Hull may be cited to ap-

pear at the next session of this Assembly, to answer to such questions as may be then proposed to him, respecting the same,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said William be cited to attend at the next session of this Assembly, to be held at Providence, on the first Wednesday of May next, agreeably to the request of the said Jonathan; and that the said William be furnished by the secretary, with a copy of this resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that nine shillings, lawful money, be allowed in future to each of the members of the council of war, who do not reside within the town of Providence; and six shillings, to each of the members of said council, who reside within the town of Providence, for each day's attendance on said council; any resolve to the contrary, hereof, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that the troop be allowed for themselves, for their service from time to time, the same wages as the militia received, who were on duty at the same time; that they be allowed two shillings, per day, each, for their horses; that they make out their abstracts, accordingly; and that the same be paid by either of the committee of safety, in the county of Providence.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Brown, Jonathan Arnold and Daniel Cahoon, Esqs., be a committee, they, or any two of them, to draft a letter to the marine committee of the Continental Congress, in answer to their letter to the council of war, of this state, dated the 5th day of April current, informing them of the present situation of this state, so far as respects their requisition; the condition and situation of the Continental naval department in this state; and how far their requisition has been complied with; and likewise, how far this state hath advised and exerted itself in getting the Continental frigates out of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Brown be appointed to wait on the council of the state of Massachusetts

Bay, with the letter received from the marine committee of Congress, to this state; and that he advise with them respecting the best methods of complying with the requisition of said committee, and request they will assist us with men, for that purpose; and if the said John Brown shall obtain the request, in that case the council of war of this state, are fully empowered and requested to exert every method in their power, to effect the intention of the said marine committee.

It is voted and resolved, that the persons hereafter named, be, and they are hereby, appointed to procure, on the best terms, six blankets each, within their respective towns, for the use of the Continental troops now under inoculation, in the county of Kent, to wit:

Committee appointed by the General Assembly to procure Blankets for the Soldiers.

For Providence - - -	Daniel Tillinghast, Esq.,
" Johnston - -	Caleb Harris, Esq.,
" Smithfield -	Capt. Andrew Waterman,
" Glocester -	Richard Steer, Esq.,
" Scituate - - -	William West, Esq.,
" Cranston - -	Nehemiah Knight, Esq.,
" Cumberland -	Elisha Waterman, Esq.,
" North Providence -	Joseph Olney, Esq.,
" Warwick - -	Charles Holden, Esq.,
" Coventry -	Ephraim Westcott, Esq.,
" East Greenwich - -	Stephen Mumford, Esq.,
" West Greenwich	Mr. Samuel Hopkins, Jr.,
" South Kingstown	Immanuel Case, Esq.,
" North Kingstown -	Major Sylvester Gardner,
" Westerly - - -	Colonel Joseph Noyes,
" Charlestown - -	Mr. James Congdon, 3d,
" Exeter - -	George Pearce, Esq.,
" Hopkinton - -	Thomas Wells, Esq.,
" Richmond - - -	Mr. Simeon Clarke, Jr.

And it is further voted and resolved, that they deliver said blankets, and present their accounts for the same, to either of the committees of safety in the counties of Providence, Kings and Kent, within three days from the rising of this Assembly; and the said committee of safety are directed to discharge said accounts, and forward said blankets to the hospitals in which said troops are inoculated.

It is voted and resolved, that the company of Newtown Rangers forthwith embody themselves into a company, agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly, and immediately take the field, and do duty with the militia.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£ s. d.
Azariah Crandall, for a gun, bayonet and cartouch box, delivered into the Continental store	3 12 00
Timothy Larkin, a sick soldier, on duty in this state, for sundry visits and medicines administered to him during his sickness	1 01 00
Benjamin West, for his expenses in taking up Jacob Parker, a deserter, and delivering him to Oliver Clarke, captain in one of the Continental battalions	1 04 00
William Johnston, a negro, who came from Rhode Island, and brought off a cedar boat	4 10 00
Henry Reynolds, for his horse-hire, &c., in going to Mr. Lodowick Updike's, on public business, by order of the General Assembly	10 00
John Davis, for making ninety-three tents; and for thirty-one pounds of twine	62 00 00
John Jenckes, for the board of a negro man, that formerly belonged to George Rome; and for a pair of shoes, and tow-cloth, for a shirt, by him provided for said negro man	9 09 03
Stephen Harding, for the use of his horse, by General Malmedy, in viewing the shores at Bristol Ferry, &c.	1 04 00
Oliver Eddy, for a small arm, delivered by him into the store at Prospect Hill, for the use of the Continent	3 12 00
Edward Perry, president of the town council of Richmond, for a number of guns, bayonets, cartridge-boxes, blankets and knapsacks, by them furnished for the use of the troops raised as the quota of that town	60 15 00
Paul Allen, as agent for the privateer sloop Independence, for sundry cannon and warlike stores, taken out of the prize-ship Friendship, for the use of the state	803 06 07½
John Larkin, for taking possession of a horse belonging to one Jacob Parker, a soldier, who deserted the service of this state, and selling the same at public vendue	6 08 06¼

	£	s.	d.
Jacob Greene and David Howell, for their time and expenses in going to Baltimore, in the state of Maryland, to receive the money due to this state, from the Continental treasury	99	04	02¼
William Potter, for half a cord of wood, by him provided for the use of the General Assembly, at their session in South Kingstown, in March last		09	00
Ebenezer Tefft, for sweeping and cleaning the state house, in Kings county; cutting and carrying in wood, and for his attendance on this Assembly, at the present session	1	06	06
Solomon Tefft, for his attendance on the General Assembly, at the present session		17	06
Charles Holden, Jr., for his time and expenses in going to Little Rest, Warwick, and to the Jerseys, as a committee-man, on public business,	38	03	00
John Lassell, for keeping two horses, belonging to the government	19	10	00
Silas Downer, for fourteen days' attendance on the council of war, as their clerk	8	08	00
William Channing, for his expenses in attending on the General Assembly, at the last session, as assistant clerk of the lower house	3	14	00
Josias Lyndon, for his expenses and [illegible]ance on the General Assembly, at the last session, as clerk of the lower house	3	09	11
John Carter, for printing the acts of the General Assembly, at the March session, 1776; for printing several acts of the General Assembly, resolves of the council of war, and advertisements in the Providence Gazette; for postage on a number of letters on public service, and divers other services	59	02	03

God save the United States of America.

General Greene to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Baskeridge, Headquarters, 6th March, 1777.

Dear Sir:—I am honored with your favor of the 9th of February last, by which I find my letter of the 23d of January had been laid before the House of Assembly.

I did not write it for public inspection; I wrote in the style and freedom of one friend to another. Had I conceived the production was for public inspection, I should have been more discriminate in my observations; I wrote to you, sir, as a magistrate of the state of Rhode Island, and as an inhabitant of the town of Providence. My letter being considered under those two characters, will speak my intentions and sentiments.

I am exceeding happy on the receipt of yours, to find my information erroneous, and my apprehensions and fears in a great degree groundless respecting your departure from the union, and general plan.

At the time I wrote, upwards of two months had elapsed without receiving a single line from any person in the state; various reports were circulating here to the prejudice of the policy of New England, the enormous bounty that was given, the effect it would have upon the other states, the resolutions of your government to raise men for its own internal defence, neglecting the Continental regiments, were circumstances not a little alarming to His Excellency. These reports were confirmed by Lieut. Allen, of Providence, who arrived from that place, much about the same time; he must have been totally ignorant of the conditions upon which the troops were raising; for, I conceived them to be for the safety of the state only; and never knew but that they were located, until the receipt of your letter.

I hope the house will pardon the freedom with which I delivered my sentiments, when I assure them that it was from a full persuasion that the reports were true; and that the measure was calculated to fix a lasting disgrace upon the legislators. I have felt no small share of unhappiness in remaining so long ignorant of the true history of your proceedings; for notwithstanding I am not answerable for any misconduct in legislation, I cnnnot help feeling myself wounded, when any thing transpires to the prejudice of the state; and you may rest assured, sir, the language of my letter was a true transcript of people's sentiments and opinions, respecting your political transactions. If the love for my native place, and zeal for the cause, hath led me to a too hasty animadversion upon [your] administration, it hath arisen from a strong desire to correct the evil before it was rendered incurable.

I can assure you, sir, there are few persons that feel more sensibly for your state, than myself; and none that will go farther to serve it. But if you consider the critical situation of the American affairs, the importance of adhering to the general plan, the short time we had to prepare for the ensuing campaign, the fatal consequences that might result from an unreasonable delay, to myself, the army, and to the cause in general, you cannot be surprised to find my fears and apprehensions alarmed at the disagreeable situation things were reported to be in.

I was sensible, sir, of your distress; I felt for the inhabitants; the calamities the people suffered here, was a lively picture of what you had to expect there. Had I known the governmental regiments differed from the Continental only in point of time, I should have been silent upon the occasion; notwithstanding the policy does not correspond with my sentiments. If the enemy had intended to penetrate into the country immediately on their arrival, no new levies could have been raised seasonably; if they did not, then the Continental regiments might have been as easily completed as any others.

I feel a singular pleasure in hearing His Excellency General Washington continues in such high estimation among you. The strictures that were made on the General's conduct, by some of the inhabitants of Providence, gave me great uneasiness; if a character so important, so truly worthy, is not shielded from calumny and reproach, what have lesser ones to expect?

Lieutenant Allen is the author, and from the character he bears, I make no doubt of its truth; but had I conceived my letter was for the inspection of the General Assembly, I should not have troubled the house with such out-of-door politics.

I receive with peculiar attention your congratulation, and hearty wishes for the success of the American arms. I hope, if Heaven continues to smile upon us, and the respective states furnish their proportion of men, to exterminate from this land of liberty, those hostile invaders of human happiness and the rights of mankind.

Believe me to be, sir, with sentiments of regard,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

N. GREENE.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq.

Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Morristown, 3d April, 1777.

Sir:—The late ample arrivals of arms at Philadelphia and at Portsmouth, added to those we before had, puts me out of all further uneasiness on account of that necessary article. The eleven hundred and seventy-six stands, which you received from the Continental agent at Boston, will be very near the number wanted for your two Continental battalions, when complete; and I desire that they may be carefully

collected from the militia, to whom any part of them were lent, and applied to that purpose.

The effects of granting extravagant bounties, and of raising bodies of men upon colonial establishments, now appear, from the returns of the low state of your Continental battalions.

From the first cause, the men are taught to set a price upon themselves, and refuse to turn out, except that price be paid; and I am informed in some instances, in Massachusetts, £100, lawful money, per man, have been paid. It is also evident, that the raising of the colonial brigade for fifteen months, retards the Continental enlistments; for General Spencer, in a letter of the 26th of March, writes to me, that the first has five hundred men, and the last but three hundred and eighty; about half of whom, have had the small pox; and he adds, that General Varnum was only then preparing hospitals for the inoculation of the remainder. Strange that this should have been neglected so long, when my orders were given to him on the 3d of March, to provide quarters, and to inoculate immediately.

You certainly overrate the number of men upon Rhode Island, if they consist of only six Hessian and two British regiments. The Hessian regiments, when they came out complete, did not exceed six hundred men each; and the British, two hundred and fifty each. Now, if they have decreased by casualties in proportion to the other troops in the British army, they are scarcely more than three thousand; a number too small to make any attempt upon the main. I am convinced, from every appearance, that they intend to leave Rhode Island, where they have wintered comfortably, and kept up a considerable diversion, and join their main body in this state. How I am to oppose them, God knows; for, excepting a few hundred from Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia, I have not yet received a man of the new Continental levies. So far, therefore, from being able to consent that your Continental battalions should remain at home, supposing the enemy should continue upon the island, that I am obliged, in the most positive terms, to order every man, who has had the small pox, to come immediately forward; and those who have not, so soon as they are recovered. I have written to General Varnum, to the same effect.

As it is my duty to afford equal protection to every part of the continent, you may be assured, if I thought there was any real danger to be apprehended from the enemy at Rhode Island, that, instead of drawing the Continental troops from that quarter, I would add to their numbers. But, when there is every probability of their coming away, and, supposing they should stay, as the internal strength of the country would hinder them from setting foot upon the main, I think I am excusable in drawing every man in the Continental service (excepting those intended for the northern department), to this point, to make opposition to the grand army of the enemy, who, unless they are checked, will, in turn, overrun every state in the Union.

As the safety of the whole confederacy depends upon each state's furnishing the quota of men allotted to it, I must call upon you in the most pressing manner, to endeavor to complete your allotment by the usual methods; but, if your men will not turn out voluntarily, notwithstanding the great encouragement given by the state, I beg you will, if your powers are adequate, insist upon each district's furnishing a certain number, as they have done in Massachusetts. If neither of these modes can be fallen upon, to good effect, we may as well give up the cause.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

The Marine Committee of Congress, to the Council of War of the State of Rhode Island.

Philadelphia, April 5th, 1777.

Gentlemen:—We have ordered the frigates in the state of Rhode Island, &c., out on a cruise; and as it seems they are not fully manned, we earnestly request your assistance, that they may be manned with the utmost expedition.

If they cannot be fully and expeditiously manned in your state, we desire that you would order drafts to be made from the militia, of men best acquainted with the sea, to assist in carrying them to Boston, where they may avoid a blockade, and procure seamen. Such of the soldiers who may be put on board the frigates, to be discharged, that they may return and join their respective companies, as may not choose to enlist in the sea service.

We have addressed ourselves to you, gentlemen, on a supposition that you are invested with powers sufficient to enable you to comply with our request, if it should be necessary to draught from the militia; and that the General Assembly may not be sitting, when this reaches you. If the Assembly should be sitting, when you receive this, and you are incompetent to the business, please to lay this letter before them; otherwise, we hope that you will execute it; for, by doing it, you will render an essential service to the common cause, and greatly oblige—

Gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servants,

ROB'T MORRIS,	JOHN HANCOCK,
ABRA. CLARK,	WM. WHIPPLE,
THOS. BURKE,	RICHARD HENRY LEE,
	WILLIAM ELLERY.

General Spencer to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Providence, 7th April, 1777.

Sir:—As I think this part of the country is in great danger of being soon ravaged by the enemy (the army here being so very weak), I therefore imagine myself bound in duty to make this further application to your state for immediate succor.

The Continental troops of this state are positively ordered to the westward, by Gen. Washington; they will all march to-morrow, except those ordered to the hospital, to take the small pox. The whole troops now in this army, by the returns, does not exceed fourteen hundred men, and they are necessarily very much scattered. The enemy at Rhode Island are without doubt four thousand strong. This is confirmed fully by the intelligence we have, it would be too troublesome to relate the particular evidence.

The report in a late Providence papers, that the enemy at Rhode Island amounted to but twenty-two hundred, ought never to have had any credit given to it; and it never had, by any gentlemen who were fully acquainted with the general intelligence from Rhode Island; that information was given by one Lawton, whocame off from the island, who has since been strongly suspected of inimical designs, and was accordingly confined; and since his confinement has confessed that he came off at the desire of the enemy.

By the late accounts we have, the enemy have determined on making a descent on the main very soon, to get fresh provisions; but how that may be, I cannot say. But it is very certain, that the neglect of the several states to keep a proper army up in

these parts, to prevent their excursions, is extremely dangerous to the country, and affords a very great temptation to the enemy to lay some parts of the country waste.

I hope, sir, from these representations, which Your Honor may depend upon, your state will send with the utmost dispatch some assistance to this army.

I am, &c., JOS. SPENCER.

To Governor Cooke.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.

Providence, April 14th, 1777.

Sir:—Your Excellency's favors of the 14th ult. and 3d instant, are now before me. In pursuance of your recommendation, Mr. Hutchinson and Governor Shirley's son are permitted to go to Rhode Island. I have made inquiry after the mulatto lad Thomas Kogesson, but can as yet gain no account that is perfectly satisfactory. I believe he was brought into this place, and very soon after sailed for ———, under the care of Captain ———. Thus far it may be relied upon, that he never was sold, or treated as a slave.

Captain William Chace, who commanded the privateer that took Mr. Hutchinson and Master Shirley, had the great misfortune of having his son, Mr. John Chace, who was master of the sloop ———, captivated by the Mercury, and carried into Halifax, in irons, about a year ago, where he was cruelly treated; of which Captain Chace had intelligence before he sailed upon his craise.

When he took the prize in which Mr. Hutchinson and Master Shirley were passengers, he carried them on board his privateer, with the sole view of making them instrumental in procuring the release of his son, who is still a prisoner, and it is thought on board the Mercury. I have now to request Your Excellency to apply to Lord Howe, to give immediate orders for Capt. Chace's discharge. Allow me to beg the favor of a particular attention to this matter, and that you will inform me of the application and its success, which will give great satisfaction to a respectable family.

In justice to General Varnum, I think myself obliged to inform Your Excellency, that when your orders arrived for inoculating our two Continental battalions, we had an expedition on foot to Rhode Island, which was to have been made in two or three days; and it was thought absolutely necessary by General Spencer and the council of war here, that those troops should be made use of in that attempt. When it was given up, the greatest part of the militia from Connecticut and the Massachusetts, whose time was expired, returned home, and left our shores so naked, that we could scarcely keep up the necessary guards to prevent the enemy from having a free communication with the main land. This again obliged us to make use of our two Continental battalions for immediate security.

When I wrote you on the 18th ult., that the enemy upon Rhode Island consisted of six Hessian and two British regiments, I was led into that mistake by a man who pretended to have made his escape from Rhode Island, but hath since confessed that he was sent off by the enemy. However, the accounts we have from several intelligent and observant people, agree that their number amounts to full four thousand.

The General Assembly at the last session ordered exact returns to be made of all the men in the several districts in the state, able to bear arms; and will meet on the 16th instant, to take the most effectual methods for completing our Continental battalions. I am, sir, Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Greene.

Providence, April 15th, 1777.

Dear Sir:—I am favored with yours of the 6th ultimo. I am extremely sorry that the groundless misrepresentations of the sentiments and public discourse of the people here, hath had so great weight with you.

The Council thought it their duty to send for, and examine Mr. Allen. He tells us that he informed you that he had heard nothing to the prejudice of the generals from any persons of note, in this place; but only mentioned to you some idle talk of Mr. Man, and some other persons, of much less consequence.

The Council were convinced that he might have given you very different intelligence, from the representation he made to us of it. Upon the whole, I beg you to rest assured, that General Washington and yourself are at present very high in the estimation of all respectable people in this state.

I am, with sentiments of esteem and regard, dear sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Honorable Major General Greene.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

Philadelphia, April 16th, 1777.

Gentlemen:—The enclosed resolves of Congress, I am commanded to transmit to you, and most earnestly to call upon you to exert yourselves to carry the same into execution.

In the present situation of the British army, it is much to be wished that an attack could be made upon the enemy in your state, which, whatever success may attend it, would at least cause a diversion of their forces in New Jersey, if it could be speedily undertaken.

Agreeably to the enclosed resolves, I have written to the states of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, to afford you all the assistance in their power, in executing this important service. I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Honorable the Assembly of the state of Rhode Island.

Resolves of the Continental Congress relative to a proposed attack on the British forces stationed upon the Island of Rhode Island.

IN CONGRESS, April 16th, 1777.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the General Assembly of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, to collect with the utmost dispatch the whole force thereof; and therewith, aided by such parts of the militia of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, as are contiguous to the said state, to attack and destroy the enemy on the island of Rhode Island, aforesaid.

Resolved, that it be, and hereby it is, recommended to the states of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut to give every assistance in their power, by calling out the militia

of their respective towns, which lie next to the state of Rhode Island, &c., and to promote and execute this most important service.

Resolved, that General Washington be directed to appoint such general officers as he shall judge proper to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect.

Resolved, that a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent by express to General Washington and the three New England states.

By order of Congress: JOHN HANCOCK, President.

[CIRCULAR.]

The enclosed printed resolves of Congress, I am commanded to transmit, and to entreat your compliance therewith, as far as they respect your state. They are so very explicit, and at the same time so very important, that I need not enlarge.

Give me leave just to observe, that upon their faithful execution at this critical period, the liberty and happiness of our country absolutely depend.

I have the honor to be your most humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Hon. Assembly of Rhode Island.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the Speaker of the General Assembly of Massachusetts.

South Kingstown, April 20th, 1777.

Sir:—The embargo laid upon privateering, in the respective New England states, originated from the necessity of immediately completing the Continental battalions, This state, invariably adhering to that measure, expected to derive the benefits resulting from it. Nevertheless, a very considerable number of their inhabitants have lately entered on board armed vessels in your state, which are either private property, or that belonging to the state. We are therefore extremely unhappy in laying under so great a disadvantage, without deriving a single benefit.

The Continental Congress have wisely ordered the respective states not to recruit from each other. For the same reason, I am requested by the General Assembly of this state, to desire your state to take immediate and effectual measures for remanding those men who have already entered on board the vessels before mentioned, and to prevent such practice in future. I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Speaker of Massachusetts State.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providenee, on the first Wednesday in May, 1777.

The following named officers, declared elected, were duly engaged:

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

John Collins, Esq.,
John Tanner, Esq.,
Ambrose Page, Esq.,
John Sayles, Jr., Esq.,
Daniel Cahoon, Esq.,
James Arnold, Jr., Esq.,
Josiah Arnold, Esq.,
Peter Phillips, Esq.,
William Potter, Esq.,
Pardon Grey, Esq.

DEPUTIES.

Newport.
Henry Ward, Esq.,
Col. Joseph Belcher,
Christopher Ellery, Esq.,
Mr. Caleb Gardner,
Mr. Thomas Rumreill,
Mr. William Borden.

Providence.
Jonathan Arnold, Esq.,
Mr. John Brown,
Mr. John Smith,
Mr. William Rhodes,

Portsmouth.
Capt. David Gifford,

Warwick.
Mr. James Rhodes,
Mr. Benjamin Arnold, Jr.,
Mr. Thomas Rice, Jr,

Westerly.
Mr. Thomas Ross,
James Babcock, Esq.

North Kingstown.
John Northup, Esq.,
Sylvester Gardner, Esq.

South Kingstown.
Immanuel Case, Esq.,
Mr. Enoch Haszard,

DEPUTIES.

East Greenwich.
Job Comstock, Esq.,
Rufus Spencer, Esq.

Jamestown.
Capt. Samuel Carr,
Benjamin Underwood Esq.

Smithfield.
Samuel Winsor, Esq.

Scituate.
Job Randall, Esq.,
Timothy Hopkins, Esq.

Glocester.
Mr. John Smith, Jr.,
Mr. Stephen Winsor.

Charlestown.
Col. Gideon Hoxsie,
Mr. Robert Congdon.

West Greenwich.
Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq.,
Mr. Elisha Greene.

Coventry.
Ephraim Westcott, Esq.,
Mr. John Greene.

Exeter.
John Chapman, Esq..
Daniel Sunderland, Esq.

Bristol.
Nathaniel Fales, Esq.,
Mr. Stephen Smith.

Tiverton.
Mr. Isaac Manchester,
William Cooke, Esq.

Little Compton.
Nathaniel Searle, Jr., Esq.

Warren.
Mr. Cromel Child,
Col. Sylvester Child.

Cumberland.
Thomas Angell, Esq.,
Col. George Peck.

Richmond.
Major Richard Bailey,
Mr. Joseph Woodmansie, Jr.

Cranston.
Col. Christopher Lippitt,
Mr. Nehemiah Rhodes.

Hopkinton.
Thomas Wells, Esq.,
Mr. Edward Wells.

Johnston.
Mr. Noah Mathewson,
Mr. Ebenezer Sprague.

North Providence.
Joseph Olney, Esq.,
Esek Hopkins, Esq.

Barrington.
Paul Mumford, Esq.,
Peleg Heath, Esq.

The Hon. William Greene, speaker; Josias Lyndon, clerk.
Henry Ward, Esq., secretary.
William Channing, Esq., attorney general.
Joseph Clarke, Esq., general treasurer.

DELEGATES TO REPRESENT THE STATE IN CONGRESS.

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.,
The Hon. William Ellery, Esq.,
The Hon. Henry Marchant, Esq.

JUSTICES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

William Greene, Esq., chief; Shearjashub Bourn, Esq., second; Jabez Bowen, Esq., third; Thomas Wells, Esq., fourth; and Perez Richmond, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR NEWPORT COUNTY.

Benjamin Underwood, Esq., chief justice of the inferior court of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, within and for the county of Newport; Christopher Ellery, Esq., second; John Coddington, Esq., third; Walter Cooke, Esq., fourth; Philip Taylor, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR PROVIDENCE COUNTY.

Thomas Greene, Esq., chief; Richard Steere, Esq., second; Rufus Hopkins, Esq., third; Jeremiah Whipple, Esq., fourth; and Daniel Mowry, Jr., Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR KINGS COUNTY.

William Potter, Esq., chief; John Northup, Esq., second; Carder Hazard, Esq., third; Joseph Hoxsie, Esq., fourth; and Immanuel Case, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR BRISTOL COUNTY.

Nathaniel Fales, Esq., chief; John Child, Esq., second; Joseph Reynolds, Esq., third; Josiah Humphreys, Esq., fourth; and Paul Mumford, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR KENT COUNTY.

Philip Greene, Esq., chief; James Arnold, Jr., Esq., second; Gideon Mumford, Esq., third; John Low, Esq., fourth; Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq., fifth.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

John Foster, Esq., judge of the court erected for the trial of maritime causes, in and throughout the state.

SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county.
Jabez Champlin, Esq.

Providence county.
Theodore Foster, Esq.

Kings county.
Beriah Brown, Esq.

Bristol county.
Richard Smith, Esq.

Kent county.
John Reynolds, Esq.

FIELD OFFICERS FOR THE STATE, IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Jabez Bowen, Esq., colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Nathan Miller, Esq., colonel of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

John Waterman, Esq., colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

John Cooke, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Chad Brown, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Charles Dyer, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Nathaniel Brown, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

William West, Esq., colonel of the third regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Amos Atwell, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Peter Church, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol

John Low, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

David Hilyard, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Elisha Mowry, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Ray Sands, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Archibald Kasson, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

John Colwell, Jr., Esq., lieutenant colonel of the third regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

John Angell, Esq., son of Stephen, major of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Peleg Heath, Esq., major of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., major of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Pardon Gray, Esq., major of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

George Peck, Esq., major of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Thomas Clarke, Esq., major of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Joseph Knight, Esq., major of the third regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

In Council was read the return of the officers chosen to command the company of Light Infantry, in the town of Glocester, and is as follows, to wit:

Timothy Wilmarth, Jr., captain; David Richmond, first lieutenant; Martin Smith, second lieutenant; Caleb Sheldon, ensign.

Which being considered by the Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and hereby are, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety within this state be, and they are hereby, directed to pay to any of the soldiers lately in Colonel Lippitt's regiment, in the Continental service, all such sums of money as shall be certified by Colonel Lippitt to be due to them for their wages while in said service, and which through mistake were not included in the abstracts.

Whereas, the following form of a commission, to be issued to the delegates appointed to represent this state in Congress, was laid before this Assembly, to wit:

Form of Commission to be given to the Delegates in Congress, from Rhode Island.

"By the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor, Captain-General, Commander-in-Chief of, and over, the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

To ———— ————, Esq., Greeting:

Whereas, by the free vote of the freemen of said state, on the first Wednesday of May inst., you, the said ——— ———, was elected a delegate to represent the said state, for one year, in the General Congress of delegates from the thirteen United States of America, now sitting at Philadelphia, or wherever the same may sit:

I do therefore, in the name of the Governor and Company of the said state, hereby authorize, empower and commissionate you, the said ——— ———, in conjunction with the other delegates, that are, or may be, elected delegates of the said state, or separately and alone, in case of the sickness or necessary absence of the other delegates of said state, to represent the said state in the said General Congress; and in behalf thereof, to join with the delegates from the other states, or the major part of them, in all such measures as shall be thought best for promoting the defence and welfare of the said United States, agreeably to the instructions given, or that may be given you, by the General Assembly.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said state, at Providence, this ——— day of ———, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

By His Honor's command.

Which being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, approved; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to issue a commission to the Honorable Stephen Hopkins,

William Ellery and Henry Marchant, Esqs., appointed delegates to represent this state in the Most Honorable the Congress of the thirteen United States of America, agreeably to to the afore mentioned form.

Whereas, by an act of this Assembly, passed at the last session, five hundred men were proportioned to the several towns, to be raised on, or before, the 10th day of May inst., for filling the Continental battalions raising within this state, upon the penalty of £10, lawful money, for each soldier said towns shall then be deficient in; and whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that the said time is not sufficient for raising said men,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that if any of the towns within this state, who shall not have raised their respective proportions of said five hundred men, on, or before the said 10th day of May, and shall raise their said proportions by the 15th day of May inst., such delinquent town shall be discharged from any fines they may have incurred by their said deficiency.

And it is further resolved, that said towns be permitted to advance such sums of money, in addition to the bounty and encouragement heretofore allowed, as they shall think proper, for procuring their quotas of said men; any thing in said act to the contrary, notwithstanding.

And it is further voted and resolved, that each town in this state, which shall be deficient in raising its proportion, as aforesaid, by said 15th day of May, shall pay said fine, of £10, per man, for the use of the state, to be recovered, as is by said act ordered.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, to wit:

Ebenezer Thompson, Esq., third assistant, in the room of Ambrose Page, Esq., who declined serving. Engaged.

William West, Esq., seventh assistant, in the room of Josiah Arnold, Esq., who declined serving. Engaged.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Marchant, Esq., be empowered to draw £100, lawful money, out of the

general treasury, in addition to what he hath already received; and that he account for the same, as a delegate for this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Henry Ward, Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby, appointed a committee to communicate by letter, abstracts of the public acts of the General Assembly of this state, or material parts thereof, immediately upon the rising of every session, to the delegates of this state, in General Congress; together with any other matters of a public nature, that from time to time may arise, which affect either this state, in particular, or the general cause of the United States.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, to wit:

John Foster, Samuel Chace and James Arnold, Jr., Esqs., the grand committee, or state's trustees, for signing bills of public credit.

The aforesaid John Foster, is chosen and specially appointed, to take and have the care and charge of the state's mortgages, and bonds for tenths, and to receive the money due, and to be due, thereon; and also to make proper acquittances and discharges upon the mortgages, or otherwise, when he receives any of the state's money; and in case of non-payment, to put in suit the bonds and mortgages of all such as refuse or neglect to make due payment.

It is voted and resolved, that Pardon Gray, Esq., be empowered to draw £1,500, lawful money, out of the general treasury, to discharge the contracts entered into by him, when a commissary of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety, within the town of Providence, be, and they are hereby, empowered to receive of Mr. Adam Babcock cloth sufficient for making six hundred suits of clothes, now in his possession, belonging to the Continent, for the use of the Continental battalions, raising within this state.

And the said Adam Babcock having represented to this Assembly, that he is not authorized to deliver said cloth without orders from the secret committee, by whom he was employed to import the same,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that this Assembly will indemnify him with the said committee, for delivering said cloth to said committee of safety, for the purpose, aforesaid.

It is further voted and resolved, that said committee of safety immediately employ persons to make up said cloth; and when made into clothing, that they deliver the same for the use of said battalions.

This Assembly taking into consideration a resolution of Congress, of the 14th of April last, recommending it to the several legislatures of the United States to exempt from actual service any two of the militia, who shall, within a limited time, furnish an able-bodied recruit, to serve in any battalion of the Continental army, for three years, or during the war,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that if any two men in this state, whether belonging to the militia, alarm list, or independent companies, in this state, shall, on or before the 15th day of May inst., enlist and deliver to any commissioned officer of either of the two Continental battalions, raising as the quota of this state, an able-bodied, effective man, to serve in the same, for three years, or during the war, and who shall pass muster, they shall be exempted from being drafted for, or doing, duty in any of the Continental battalions, for, and during the term for which such able-bodied man shall enlist; and the person so enlisted, shall be entitled to, and receive, the whole of the bounties and allowances granted by Congress and this state, to persons enlisting into either of the said two battalions.

Provided, nevertheless, that such exemption shall not extend to excuse any person from doing duty in time of an alarm, or in case of a draft for the immediate defence of this state.

It is further voted and resolved, that no persons shall re-

ceive the benefit of the aforesaid exemption for any man by them enlisted, unless at the time of such enlistment, their names be inserted thereon, and they produce a certificate from the officer receiving him, that he was really and truly enlisted upon their account; and also make oath before a justice of the peace, that the man by them delivered, was *bona fide* enlisted by, and for, them, without any fraud or deceit.

And it is further voted and resolved, that a copy of this act be immediately sent by express to the several town clerks, in this state.

The return of the choice of officers, to command the independent company of Kingstown Reds, for the county of Kings, was read in Council, and is as follows, to wit:

John Weight, captain; George Tefft, first lieutenant; Nathan Taylor, second lieutenant; Samuel Eldred, ensign.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

In Council, was read the return of the choice of officers to command the United Company of the Train of Artillery, in Providence, and is as follows, to wit:

Daniel Tillinghast, Esq., colonel; Levi Hall, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Elihu Robinson, major; Robert Taylor, captain.

Which being considered by the Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

Whereas, Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford and Thomas Greene presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

Report of the Committee.

In compliance with the orders of this Honorable Assembly, we have examined into the affair of the two Capt. Simmons's, and from the best information we can collect, 'tis our opinion that the charges in their abstracts, are the same with those of the other militia round these shores; only with this difference, that the tour of actually being on guard in some parts, comes round oftener than once in four days, which we think was no fault of the captains; but as the commanding officer thought fifteen men

a sufficient guard, he might have lessened the number of men then in service from sixty to forty-five; which would have brought their tour of actual duty to once in three days, or have ordered twenty men on guard at a time, if he thought so many were necessary.

Upon the whole, it is our opinion, the abstracts are rightly charged, deducting the rations which have been received by Capt. Gideon Simmons, amounting to £8 8*s.* 9*d.*, and excepting the ration bill exhibited by Capt. George Simmons, to the deputy commissary, Pardon Gray, Esq., which is to remain unpaid, which they have agreed to.

Submitted to Your Honors, by your humble servants,—

NATHANIEL MUMFORD,
THOMAS GREENE.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; provided, that no allowance be demanded from the state, for fire-wood, during said term of twenty-two days; and that the above balance of £8 8*s.* 9*d.*, lawful money, be paid by the said Gideon Simmons, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that James Congdon, 3d, one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £1,500, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that all the bread, and forty barrels of the flour (if wanted), lately imported by this state, in the sloop Diamond, be delivered to Colonel Daniel Tillinghast, for the use of the Continental frigates within this state; the said Daniel to return an equal quantity of bread and flour, of the same quality, to this state, as soon as he can procure the same; and the said Daniel is hereby requested immediately to remove the flour and iron imported in said sloop, to places of safety, within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Christopher Lippitt Job Randall, James Babcock, Thomas Wells, Christopher Ellery and Ebenezer Thompson, be a committee to draft a bill, in addition to, and amendment of, the act for preventing monopolies, &c.; and that report be made to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith, as one of

the committee of safety, be empowered to draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £1,000, lawful money.

It is voted and resolved, that if any two men, in any of the towns who have raised, or shall raise, their quota of the five hundred men, proportioned to the several towns within this state, shall enlist and deliver an able-bodied, effective man, agreeably to the resolve of this Assembly, the committees of safety are directed to pay to the person so enlisted, the whole of the bounties and allowances allowed by Congress and this state, to persons so enlisting into either of said two battalions.

It is voted and resolved, that Jacques Pallifer, who has acted as surgeon's mate, in the regimental hospital, at Bristol, be allowed, after the first month, the pay and rations heretofore allowed the regimental mates in the Continental service.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Benjamin Tillinghast be empowered to draw the money allowed the town of West Greenwich, for paying the bounties to the men proportioned to said town, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that William Christophers draw the pay and rations of an ensign, from the time of his entering into the service of this state.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, to wit:

Members of the Council of War, to act in the recess of the General Assembly, and Officers of the Militia Chosen

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq., the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., William Greene, Esq., John Tanner, Esq., Ebenezer Thompson, Esq., Daniel Cahoon, Esq., James Arnold, Esq., Henry Ward, Esq., Christopher Ellery, Esq., Christopher Lippitt, Esq., Immanuel Case, Esq., Thomas Wells, Esq., Cromel Child, Esq., Job Comstock, Esq.

Christopher Greene, Esq., colonel of the first Continental battalion, raising in this state.

Sylvanus Shaw, captain; and Ebenezer David, chaplain, in Col. Angell's battalion of Continental troops.

Nathan Olney, first lieutenant in Capt. Shaw's company.

Elijah Hawkins, Jr., and Nathaniel Phillips, ensigns, in Col. Angell's battalion.

Simon Smith, Luke Greene, Asa Miner, and Israel Stoddard, ensigns; John Cooke, quartermaster; Peter Turner, surgeon; and Charles Thompson, chaplain, in Col. Greene's battalion.

Joseph Crandall, captain of the row-galley Spitfire.

Martin Seamans, Esq., sheriff in the county of Providence, in the room of Theodore Foster, Esq., who resigns.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Welcome Arnold be empowered to purchase as much salt, at the stated price, in the state of Massachusetts Bay, as he can procure, for the use of this state; that he send the same into this state; and that he be empowered to draw £1,500, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for the purpose, aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. John Hopkins, or any one of the commissioned officers of the ship Warren, under the direction of any justice of the peace, in this state, be empowered to impress, within this state, a sufficient number of men for the present cruise, being seamen, transient, foreign persons, and not inhabitants of this or any of the United States, and not enlisted into the service of this state or the Continent.

That the men so impressed, upon their entering the ship's books, shall be entitled to, and receive, the same bounties, wages and allowances, as those already entered on board the said ship, are entitled to; and that the several justices of the peace, when called upon by the said John Hopkins, or any of his commissioned officers, be, and they are hereby, directed to give every assistance to the above mentioned service.

It is voted and resolved, that any member of the General Assembly, who shall attend upon the council of war, shall, in all matters before said council, have an equal vote with the standing members; but shall not be entitled to receive pay for his services.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor be empowered to procure a sufficient number of blankets, to return for some of those received from some of the inhabitants of the town of Rehoboth, for the use of the Continental troops, heretofore within this state; provided, the persons from whom they were purchased, are dissatisfied with receiving pay for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Jenckes or Ambrose Page, Esq., deliver to Capt. Stephen Winsor, three hundred weight of powder, with a proportionable quantity of lead, and paper for cartridges, for the town of Glocester; and three hundred weight of powder, and a proportionable quantity of lead, and paper for cartridges, to General West, for the town of Scituate; and one hundred weight of powder, and a proportionable quantity of lead, and paper for cartridges, to Mr. Edward Wells, for the town of Hopkinton.

This Assembly having passed an act lengthening the time by which the quota of the Continental battalions ordered to be raised by the several towns, to the 15th of the month; and also passed an act exempting any two persons who shall enlist a man into either of the said battalions, by the said time, from certain duties; and that time appearing to be too short for the great purpose of completing the levies,—

It is voted and resolved, that the time mentioned in the said acts, be extended to the 17th day of this instant; that the fines mentioned in said first mentioned act, in case of delinquency, shall be then incurred; and that the several towns, make exact and particular returns to the General Assembly, on the first day of the next session.

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on Monday, the 19*th day of May*, 1777.

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Philip Wilkinson and his wife, and Capt. Nathan Bull, Margaret Drew, and Wm. Miller, be permitted to go in a flag of truce, to Newport, from North Kingstown, under the care of Col. Charles Dyer, with their wearing apparel, and such articles of household furniture as the said Charles shall think necessary for the use of their families.

That the said Philip Wilkinson carry his male servant of eleven years of age, and his female servants, and no others, with him, and none of his plate.

That Colonel Dyer take care that they carry no letters with them, but such as John Northup and Sylvester Gardner, Esqs., shall inspect, and appoint the persons to go in the vessel; and that the whole be transacted without any expense to the state.

It is voted and resolved, that one hundred weight of powder, and two hundred weight of lead, be delivered, by Mr. John Jenckes, to each of the towns of Westerly and South Kingstown; and two hundred weight of lead to the town of Richmond.

Whereas, it has been represented to this Assembly, that Capt. Ebenezer Adams has disposed of a gun, the property of this state,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that he be forthwith required to attend this Assembly; and that Col. Dyer be

requested to attend with any evidences who have any knowledge of the disposal of said gun.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joseph Hoxsie, Gideon Hoxsie and James Babcock be a committee to receive the stock belonging to the farm late improved by Mr. Silas Niles, agreeably to the lease and schedule received by said Niles, from this state; that if the said committee shall be dissatisfied with the stock he shall turn out, they be empowered to take such of the said Niles's stock as they shall think agreeable to his lease and schedule; in which case, they are to assess the damages for their not being delivered the 25th day of April last; the said Silas Niles having agreed before this Assembly to abide the doings and report of said committee; and said committee are further empowered to deliver said stock to Stephen Champlin and Job Watson, to whom said farm is leased; the said Stephen and Job having agreed, before this Assembly, to receive the same, agreeably to the determination of said committee.

It is voted and resolved, that Caleb Harris, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to collect the saltpetre purchased by this state; that he inspect the treasury books, to know the quantity purchased, and of whom; and that, when collected, he deposite the same in places of safety; that Beriah Brown, Esq., forthwith take possession of the saltpetre in the possession of Andrew Balfour, belonging to this state; that Edward Wells and Joseph Maxson deliver the saltpetre by them manufactured, before the 5th day of May inst., to the said Caleb Harris; that he inspect the same, and that they be allowed the bounty heretofore allowed by by this state, for so much as shall be approved by the said Caleb.

It is voted and resolved, that the commissary be, and he is hereby, directed to use his utmost endeavors to procure milk, and the other articles which are to be furnished the troops by the commissary, at the stated price; and, if necessary, that he apply to the commanding officer of any divi-

sion of the troops within this state, who are hereby required to aid and assist him in procuring the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Major Sylvester Gardner, as quartermaster of the troops stationed in King's county, lay all his accounts against this state, before the council of war, to be by them delivered to the standing committee, to be examined; that report be made to said council of war, who are hereby empowered to adjust the same, and to make such deductions as they shall think just and reasonable.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings immediately take possession of the stock late belonging to Charles Slocum, deceased; and that he apply to Col. Dyer to place a guard for the protection of the same.

Whereas, Mr. Samuel Sheffield, of Westerly, in the county of Kings, preferred a petition and represented unto this Assembly, that he is desirous, with such others as may join him, to fit out a small privateer, of about twenty-five tons burthen, in order to cruise off the Narragansett shores, and elsewhere, for vessels belonging to the enemies of the United States; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him a permit, with such others as may see fit to join him, to fit out said privateer, under such directions and regulations as this Assembly may think proper; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; the said Samuel complying with the law.

The inhabitants of this state being put to great inconveniences for want of small money,—

It is voted and resolved, that a sum equal to $15,000, in bills of credit, be immediately printed, and signed by the persons hereinafter mentioned, and lodged in the general treasury, and be applied towards paying the contingent charges of government; that the said bills be redeemed by a tax to be levied on the inhabitants at the time therein specified, and be of the following denominations, to wit;

Fifteen Thousand Dollars in Bills of Credit Ordered to be issued by the General Assembly.

		£	s.
8,490	of one-third of a dollar, - - - -	849	00
12,000	" one-fourth of a dollar, - - - -	900	00
15,000	" one-sixth of a dollar, - - - -	750	00
15,000	" one-eighth of a dollar, - - - -	562	10
15,000	" one-ninth of a dollar, - - - -	500	00
15,000	" one-twelfth of a dollar, - - -	375	00
15,000	" one-eighteenth of a dollar, - -	250	00
15,000	" one-twenty-fourth of a dollar, - -	187	10
15,080	" one-thirty-sixth of a dollar, - -	126	00
		£4,500	00

It is further voted and resolved, that the said bills be of the following form, to wit:

Form of the Bills of Credit.

"State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

No. ——. 1877, May 22. One-sixth of a dollar.

This bill entitles the possessor to receive one-sixth of a dollar, out of the general treasury of this state, by the 22d of May, 1785; and shall be received for that sum in all payments, agreeable to an act of said state."

It is further voted and resolved, that the said bills shall be a lawful tender in discharge of all contracts, debts, dues and demands, whether of a public or private nature.

It is further voted and resolved, that Messrs. Ebenezer Thompson, Jonathan Arnold, Paul Allen, John Innis Clarke, William Bowen, George Olney and Theodore Foster (who have generously undertaken to do the same gratis), with such others as shall be added by the council of war, be a

committee to procure paper, agree with the printer, have the same printed, and sign the same; and that each of the said bills be signed by one person.

Whereas, Capt. Samuel Champlin represented unto this Assembly, that in consequence of a petition some time since preferred to this Assembly, and by them referred to the Honorable Major General Spencer, respecting the keeping up a sufficient watch in Westerly, to guard their shores, the General has appointed him to have the command of said watch; and that he has enlisted the number of men assigned for that purpose, who have been on duty from the 12th of February last past; and that no provision being made for them, on account of their being remote from the commissary's store, they were obliged to billet themselves; and thereupon, the said Samuel Champlin, for himself and in behalf of the men under his command, requested this Assembly to determine whether they shall be allowed for their board, or draw provisions of the commissary for the time they have served; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Samuel Champlin be allowed the pay and rations of a sergeant; that the privates be allowed the same pay and rations as are allowed in the Continental service; and that the standing committee ascertain what is due to them for their wages and rations.

Whereas, Frederick Wightman, Holmes Wightman and George Wightman. sons of George Wightman, now in the service of the enemy, are suspected of being unfriendly to the United States,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings forthwith apprehend them, and confine them in the jail in the county of Kent, to the end that they may be examined before this Assembly, or the council of war, in the recess thereof; and all military officers and others are hereby required to aid and assist the said sheriff, in the execution of this resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to

receive the stock of Mr. Silas Niles, and deliver it to the present tenants of the Sewall farm, Messrs. Stephen Champlin and Job Watson, and for other purposes, as by the vote appointing them, is mentioned, be also empowered and directed to view the house and other buildings on said farm, and report the state thereof, with other matters referred to them, as aforesaid.

An Act empowering and directing the justices of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, in and for this state, to meet and hold a special court for the trial of offenders against the United States, in general, or this state, in particular.

Whereas, a number of persons have been committed for high crimes, to several jails in this state; and as the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, will not meet according to the stated terms, until September next, and the difficulties and dangers of the times and the public safety require that a speedy trial of said persons be had, and that the said court be held in the county of Providence,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the said justices be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to meet specially in the county of Providence, on Monday, the 2d day of June next, and proceed to the trial of all offenders against the United States in general, or this state in particular, who now stand committed, or who may be committed before or during the session of the said court.

That the sheriff of the county of Providence be, and hereby is, empowered to empannel special juries, by writ of *venire facias*, to be issued by said court for the trial of such offenders; and that the said justices and all other officers of said court, be as fully empowered to act and do every thing necessary for the purpose aforesaid, as though the said court was held at the stated term time, and the offenders were in-

habitants of, and guilty of the offences within the county of Providence.

Whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that many of the inhabitants of the town of Exeter, in this state, have opposed the raising the number of men allotted to said town, by this Assembly, at their session in April last, and in a most daring and insolent manner still refuse to raise, or aid and assist in raising and furnishing the same, in defiance of the express order and demand of the legislative and civil authority of this state; whereby, and from their numbers, it hath become necessary that the military force of this state should be exerted, in order to bring to condign punishment such atrocious and high handed offenders,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the Honorable Major General Spencer, and he is requested, to march such a number of the militia, or troops belonging to this state, or Continental troops, under his command, as he shall think fit, into the said town of Exeter, and seize, detain and confine in the jails within this state, or under guard, such and so many of the disaffected inhabitants of said town, or of any other towns within this state, as he shall judge the publice peace and safety requires.

And it is further requested, that he afford to the well-affected inhabitants of said town of Exeter, and any other town, all necessary aid and protection against the evil practices and designs of the enemies of this and the United States of America; and that this resolve continue in force until further orders from this Assembly; or in the recess thereof, from the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition of Mr. John Warner be, and the same is hereby, referred to the consideration and determination of the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Shearman be requested to attend on this Assembly, on Saturday morning,

at nine o'clock, to give information of any money and effects he may have in his possession, being the property of Mr. Isaac Howland, now or late of Jamestown; and that the sheriff of the county of Kings forthwith serve the said James Shearman with a copy of this resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that a bounty of one shilling be allowed for every bushel of good merchantable salt, that shall be made within this state, within one year from the rising of this Assembly, in addition to the bounty already allowed; provided, the person who makes the same, shall declare under oath, that the same was made out of salt water, within this state, and without any collusion.

And it is further voted and resolved, that a bounty of three shillings be allowed for every bushel of good and merchantable salt which shall be imported from foreign parts, and brought into any ports of this state, within one year from the rising of this Assembly, excepting salt brought in prize vessels; provided, the person who imports the same, shall give the refusal thereof, to this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Doctor Jonathan Arnold, Mr. Nathaniel Mumford and William Channing, Esq., be a committee to draft an act against treason, &c.; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the daughter of Mr. Nathan Bull, and the son of Mrs. Mary Coddington, and Susannah Gardner, daughter of Samuel Gardner, be permitted to go in the flag of truce to Newport, with the said Nathan Bull, under the regulations and restrictions contained in the resolve granting permission for the said flag.

In Council was read the return of the officers chosen to command the Artillery Company of the towns of Westerly, Charlestown and Hopkinton, which is as follows, to wit:

Augustus Stanton, captain; Thomas Noyes, first lieutenant; William Gardner, second lieutenant; Caleb Crandall, ensign.

Which being duly considered by the Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and hereby are, approved.

Whereas, steel is an article most essentially necessary to the inhabitants of any country, and the encouraging persons to manufacture it within this state, for the full supply of the inhabitants, will be very advantageous to the public,—

It is therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, that any person or persons who shall, at any time before the 10th day of June, A. D. 1780, by themselves or others, manufacture within this state steel of the best quality, or equal in goodness with good German steel, usually imported into this state from foreign parts, shall have and receive as a bounty out of the general treasury of this state, for every ton (gross weight,) by him or them manufactured as aforesaid, the sum of £60 lawful money.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there shall be one inspector of steel appointed within this state, who shall be engaged as other public officers are, and who shall carefully examine and inspect, at the request of the manufacturer, all the steel manufactured within this state; and upon all such as he shall judge equal in quality to good German steel, as aforesaid, he shall fix a proper stamp (by him for that purpose provided,) at such distances upon each bar, as he shall judge necessary, to prevent any impositions in the sale thereof; and the manufacturer thereof, making oath or affirmation before such inspector, who is hereby empowered to administer the same, that the steel by him exhibited for inspection, is *bona fide* of his own manufacture, and made within this state; and that he has not, by himself or others, for or on his account and behalf, sold or taken any more or greater price than that stated, or that may be stated by the General Assembly, for steel of the same quality with that then exhibited for, and which shall pass inspection; thereupon such inspector shall certify the same, and the quantity inspected, and by him stamped,

as aforesaid, to the general treasurer of this state, who, upon receipt of such certificates, shall, if they amount to twenty hundred gross weight, or one ton, as aforesaid, pay to the persons producing the same, the sum of £60, lawful money; and in the same proportion for any quantity more than twenty hundred gross weight, out of the treasury of this state, taking receipts for all sums by him so paid.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the manufacturer of steel shall pay to the inspector, for his trouble, one penny per pound, for any number of pounds not exceeding five hundred; and one-half penny per pound for all above five hundred pounds, for all steel which shall at any one time be stamped by him, and certified as aforesaid, for his trouble in viewing, stamping and certifying the same; and fourpence per mile, for every mile he may travel out from home, for that purpose.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the inspector of steel for this state, as aforesaid, for preventing imposition by false stamps, shall cause a description of the stamp by him used for stamping steel of the best quality, as aforesaid, to be published in the Providence Gazette, four weeks successively, immediately after he shall proceed to stamp any steel therewith.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any person who shall be convicted of counterfeiting the said stamp, or any other made use of by the inspector of steel, and advertised, as aforesaid; or of using any such stamp, knowing it to be counterfeit, shall forfeit and pay as a fine the sum of £100, lawful money, for every such offence; one-half thereof, to be paid to and for the use of the prosecutor, and the other half to the general treasurer of this state, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within this state; and shall also pay all costs of prosecution and conviction.

And it is further enacted, that the stamp directed to be procured by the inspector as aforesaid, be purchased at the

expense of this state, to be delivered to his successor in said office.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that no rum, sugar, molasses, cotton-wool, coffee, tanned leather, sheep's wool, and sheep, until they are shorn, shall be carried out of this state, either by sea or land, under any pretence whatseover.

That if any person shall be convicted of having carried, or attempting to carry out of this state, any of the aforementioned articles, he shall forfeit the articles so carried, or attempted to be carried out of this state; one-half thereof, to and for the use of the prosecutor; and the other half, to and for the use of the state, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within this state.

That all of the aforementioned articles which shall be found carrying from one town to another in this state, or on board any vessel about departing from the same, unless in small quantities, shall be deemed to be attempted to be carried out of this state, within the meaning of this act, unless the person so carrying the same, shall produce a certificate or permission, from the town council of the town from whence such articles shall be removed; specifying that the same are permitted to be carried to some other town within this state, for the use of the inhabitants thereof.

Provided nevertheless, that this act shall not extend to any articles that have been, or shall be, purchased for the use of the Continental army, for the transportation of which, a permit shall be granted by the commander of the Continental troops in this state, or the council of war, in the recess of the General Assembly.

And be it further enacted, that this act shall be in force immediately from and after the rising of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Cromel Child be, and he is hereby, appointed to repair the row-galley Washington, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the committees appointed

in the several counties within this state, to dispose of the salt proportioned to the towns belonging to this state, be, and they are hereby, required forthwith to pay into the general treasury the money arising from the sale thereof, agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly.

Whereas, by an act of this Assembly, passed at the April session, A. D. 1777, five hundred men were proportioned to the several towns within this state, to be raised for filling the Continental battalions; and difficulties having arisen in ascertaining to which towns certain persons enlisted into said battalions, shall be reckoned,—

It is voted and resolved, that all transient persons enlisted by any of said towns, since the passing of said act, shall be reckoned to the towns for which they have been enlisted.

It is further voted and resolved, that every person, being an inhabitant of this state, who hath enlisted into said battalions, be assigned to the town which is liable to maintain him, in case he becomes chargeable.

It is further voted and resolved, that every person, who hath been enlisted by any of said towns, since the passing of said act, and who is an inhabitant of any other state, be assigned to the town in which he resided at the time of his enlistment.

It is further voted and resolved, that every apprentice who enlisted into either of said battalions, be reckoned to the town in which he is bound to serve his apprenticeship.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the persons who have, or shall be reckoned to either of said towns as inhabitants thereof, shall be considered as inhabitants of the town to which they shall be so reckoned; and shall, with their families, be supported by said town, in case they become chargeable; unless they shall hereafter gain another settlement; any law to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that a bounty of £16, lawful

money, be allowed to each of the non-commissioned officers and privates of three companies, consisting of eighty-six men each, in the battalion under the command of Colonel Henry Sherburne, being one of the sixteen battalions raising by order of Congress; and that Col. Henry Sherburne be empowered to draw the money for the purpose, aforesaid, out of the general treasury; and that he account therefor, with this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that a flag of truce be permitted to proceed to Newport, under the direction of Col. Dyer, to carry clothing, and $20 in cash, for the use of the persons lately taken by the enemy from North Kingstown, and now confined in the jail, in Newport.

Both houses in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

Officers of the First Regiment of Militia.

Joseph Noyes, Esq., colonel; Jesse Maxson, Esq., first lieutenant colonel; and Thomas Sheffield, Esq., major.

Officers of the Second Regiment of Militia.

Samuel Whipple, Esq., major, in the room of George Peck, Esq., who declines.

Archibald Kasson, Esq., colonel; Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq., lieutenant colonel; and Yelverton Weight, Esq. major.

Pardon Gray, Esq., lieutenant colonel, in the room of David Hilyard, Esq., who declines.

Simon Whipple, Esq., lieutenant colonel, in the room of Elisha Mowry, Esq., who declines.

Thomas Aldrich, Esq., major, in the room of Simon Whipple, Esq., promoted.

Thomas Smith, first lieutenant in the Continental battalion commanded by Col. Angell, in the room of Nathan Olney, who resigns.

An Act to prevent monopoly and oppression, by excessive and unreasonable prices for many of the necessaries and conveniences of life, and for preventing engrossers; and for the better supply of our troops in the army with such necessaries as may be wanted.

[See printed schedule.]

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Abraham Whipple, or any of the commissioned officers of the ship Providence, under the direction of any justice of the peace in this state, be, and they are, empowered to impress within this state, sixty men, for the present cruise, being seamen, transient foreign persons, and not inhabitants of this or any of the United States, and not enlisted into the service of this state, or the Continent.

That the men so impressed, upon their entering the ship's books, shall be entitled to, and receive the same bounties, wages and allowances, as those already entered on board the said ship are entitled to; and that the several justices of the peace, when called upon by the said Abraham Whipple, or any of his commissioned officers, be, and they are hereby, directed to give every assistance to the above mentioned service.

It is voted and resolved, that the commanding officers of each of the three battalions raising by this state for fifteen months, cause the captains and other recruiting officers to make out abstracts of all the men enlisted into said battalions, mentioning the time when they enlisted, the bounties, pay and clothing they have respectively received; and those who have enlisted from them into the Continental service, the time when they so enlisted, and the bounties, pay and clothing that they have likewise received.

That the abstracts be made out, for those that are remaining in the said brigade, up to the 10th day of May; and that the rolls be delivered to the committee of safety, who are directed to pay them up to said time.

And the committee of safety is hereby directed to make out abstracts for all those that have enlisted into the Continental battalions, as aforesaid, with the bounties, pay and clothing they have respectively received, and lay the same before this Assembly, in order that justice may be done as well to this state as to the men who have so enlisted.

An Act against treason and misprison of treason, and for regulating trials in such cases, and for directing the mode of executing judgments against persons attainted of felony.

[See printed schedule.]

Whereas, there are a number of blankets immediately wanted for the use of the Continental battalions raising by this state,—

It is voted and resolved, that the number of five hundred blankets be immediately apportioned to the several towns in this state.

And whereas, there is a quantity of flour and iron belonging to this state, the distributing a part of which amongst the inhabitants thereof, would at this time, be very useful and advantageous to them,—

It is therefore further voted and resolved, that two hundred and fifty barrels of flour, and four tons of iron be apportioned to the several towns therein.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the rule for apportioning the blankets, flour and iron, aforesaid, be according to the last apportionment of the tax; that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford be, and he is hereby, appointed to apportion the same; and that it be done immediately.

It is voted and resolved, that Joseph Crandall, captain of the row-galley Spitfire, enlist, to serve on board said galley for the term of eighteen months from the day of their enlistments, unless sooner discharged by this Assembly, fifty men, including those already enlisted, and their officers.

That all the sailors be allowed £9, bounty, upon their

enlisting; and that those which have already enlisted, have the same bounty upon their enlisting anew, in manner as above mentioned.

Whereas, divers persons within this state, who may reasonably be supposed to be well affected to the interest and liberties thereof, have hitherto neglected to subscribe the test or declaration, prescribed by an act of this Assembly, at the session held at Newport, in June, 1776, although called upon so to do; and are now prevented by an act ordering that no person, to whom the same had been tendered, should, after the passing thereof, be permitted to subscribe the same, without permission first had from this Assembly; and are in consequence thereof, subject to many incapacities and inconveniences,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that if any person within this state, not having hitherto subscribed the said declaration, shall, on or before the 10th day of July next, subscribe the same before the Governor, Deputy Governor, an assistant, or judge of the superior or inferior court, or in open town meeting, such person shall be restored to all his liberties, privileges, franchises, and immunities; and shall as fully enjoy the same, as though he had subscribed the said test or declaration in due season; and that no person, after the expiration of said time, shall be admitted to subscribe the same, without special permission first had from this Assembly.

Whereas, the calling forth the militia for defence of this state, greatly prevents the carrying on necessary husbandry, and is attended with many other inconveniences,—

It is voted and resolved, for the filling up the brigade ordered to be raised by this state for fifteen months, that a bounty of £6, lawful money, be allowed and paid to each non-commissioned officer and private, who shall enlist into the same within fifteen days after the rising of this Assembly, in addition to the bounty heretofore allowed; after which time, this additional bounty shall cease.

And whereas, clothing was allowed to the non-commissioned officers and privates, as part of their bounty; some of whom, already enlisted, have not yet received the same, and others who shall enlist, may incline to receive money in lieu thereof,—

It is further voted and resolved, that in case any non-commissioned officer or soldier shall choose to receive money instead of clothing, he shall be allowed £7 10*s.*, in lieu of the whole clothing allowed, and in proportion for any part thereof.

It is further voted and resolved, that the form of the enlistment in future, for the said brigade, shall be the same as was firrt ordered; excepting that the men shall be enlisted to serve until the 16th day of March next, unless sooner discharged by this Assembly, on which day the said brigade shall be dismissed.

It is further voted and resolved, that one thousand men be raised, for filling up the said brigade; and that the quota of each town thereof, shall be as follows, to wit:

Quota of men proportioned to the several Towns, to be raised for the Brigade.

	No. of men.		No. of men.
Providence,	80	Charlestown,	35
Warwick,	61	West Greenwich,	35
Westerly,	39	Coventry,	49
North Kingstown,	51	Exeter,	39
South Kingstown,	50	Bristol,	24
East Greenwich,	44	Tiverton,	42
Smithfield,	55	Little Compton,	31
Scituate,	82	Warren,	23
Gloucester,	68	Cumberland,	42
Richmond,	28	Johnston,	32
Cranston,	37	North Providence,	15
Hopkinton,	36	Barrington,	11

It is further voted and resolved, that as soon as any town

town shall have raised its proportion assigned by this act, or any number of men as part of their quota, not less than five, and the same shall have joined the army, that then so many men of the militia, alarm men, and independent companies, of such town upon duty, shall be dismissed by lot, and shall be discharged from doing duty upon the shores, except in case of such an alarm as shall occasion the whole force of the state to be called out; and His Honor Major General Spencer is hereby requested to discharge them accordingly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that no greater bounty shall be given by any town, than is allowed by this act; and that any town may enlist the inhabitants of other towns, as part of its quota.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the town treasurers of the several towns, or persons appointed by said towns, be empowered to draw the necessary sums of money for the purpose, aforesaid.

In Council was read the return of the officers chosen to command the company of Scituate Hunters, which are as follows, viz.:

Gideon Cornell, captain; Jonathan Smith, first lieutenant; Bertram Rounds, second lieutenant; Jonathan Hopkins, Jr., ensign.

Which being considered by the Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that said officers be, and hereby are, approved.

The return of officers for the company of North Providence Rangers, was read in Council, and are as follows, to wit:

Thomas Olney, Jr., captain; Rufus Angell, lieutenant.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session in December last, passed an act for preventing monopoly and oppression, therein stating the prices of certain articles in said act enu-

merated; and did resolve, that the soldiers raised by this state, and their families, should be furnished with said articles for their use and consumption, at the prices stated; and whereas, this Assembly, at the present session, have passed an act, making certain alterations in the prices of said articles,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the articles enumerated in the first mentioned act, shall be furnished the soldiers raised by this state, and their families, at the prices as stated in said act, agreeably to the true intent and meaning of said resolve; the soldiers lodging money for that purpose, in the hands of the committee appointed to furnish them, as aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the committees of safety within this state be, and they are hereby, directed to pay the difference of wages between the allowances of this state and the Continent, to the officers of the regiment late under the command of Col. Richmond, during their continuance in the service; and to the officers of the regiment late under the command of Col. Lippitt, from the 11th day of May, A. D. 1776, until the 1st day of September then next following, upon the abstracts being certified by their respective commanding officers.

It is voted and resolved, that the officers in the two battalions and regiment of the train raising within this state for fifteen months, who have not made their returns to this Assembly at the first May session, as ordered, and shall not make the same, and a return of names of the persons by them enlisted into said regiment and battalions, and of the time of their enlistment, to the council of war, on or before the 7th day of June next, shall be discharged from the service, and the council of war are empowered on the 8th day of June next, to appoint others in their room; and in case it shall appear by the returns made, agreeably to this or the former order, that any officer is deficient in the number which was by the order first mentioned, assigned him to raise, that the officer so deficient, shall be dismissed the

service, and the council of war are empowered on the said 8th day of June to appoint others in their stead.

Provided, that no person shall be commissioned, or be entitled to pay or rations as an officer, until he shall have enlisted a number of men according to his rank, equal to one-half the number before assigned to such officer, and make return thereof to the council of war, or (if sitting) to this Assembly; and immediately after such return, he shall be commissioned, and be entitled to pay and rations.

And it is further voted and resolved, that copies hereof be forthwith transmitted to the colonels of the battalions and regiment.

It is voted and resolved, that the old court house, and lot of land thereunto belonging, upon Little Rest Hill, in South Kingstown, be sold at public vendue, on the 7th day of June next, to the highest bidder, by the sheriff of the county of Kings.

That he give a good deed thereof, to the purchaser, warranting the same in behalf of the state; and that he advertise the sale of said house and land in the Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that when any tax shall be assessed upon any unimproved land in any town within the state, the owner whereof is an inhabitant of another town, the collector of taxes within the town in which said land lies, is directed to give notice of said assessment to the owner thereof; and upon his neglect or refusal to pay the same, the said collector is empowered to dispose of so much of the wood and stone that may be on said land, as may be sufficient to satisfy and pay said tax; or otherwise collect the same from the owner of said land, in the same manner as by law he is directed, when the owner is in the town in which the tax is assessed.

It is voted and resolved, that a flag of truce be permitted to proceed from Howland's Ferry to Rhode Island, to carry on said island Joseph Willcox; and that the same be under the direction of Col. Stanton.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Welcome Arnold be appointed to inquire what number of blankets, belonging to this state, have been, since the 1st of December last, delivered by the committees of safety to any soldiers; and to whom they were delivered.

That he apply to said committees for information; and that he make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable William Bradford, Esq., be empowered to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury; and that he account for the same, as one of the committee of safety.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., be empowered to draw £1,500, lawful money, out of the general treasury; and that he account for the same as one of the committee of safety.

It is voted and resolved, that the secretary revise the act for preventing monopoly and oppression; and the acts since made in addition thereto; that he form the same into one act, and make report to the council of war; that the same be forthwith printed, and copies thereof transmitted to the several town clerks within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the officers of the artillery companies in the several towns within this state, who have been heretofore appointed by such towns, be chosen in future at the annual town meeting for the choice of town officers in said towns.

That Willson Pollock, captain of the company in the town of South Kingstown, be suspended; and that the lieutenant take the command until another choice, agreeably to this resolve; any law, custom or usage, to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that the fees of the judges, sheriffs, and other officers of the superior court, as stated by law, are too low, considering the prices of the necessaries of life; and that this Assembly will make them an adequate allowance for their public services, from this time until the next session of this Assembly.

Whereas, Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, who was appointed to proportion flour, iron and blankets, to the several towns within this state, presented unto this Assembly the following apportionment of said articles, to wit:

Proportion of Two Hundred Barrels of Flour, Five Hundred Blankets, and Four Tons of Iron, to the several Towns in this State.

	Barrels.	Blankets.	Iron. C.	qr.	lb.
Providence	34	68	10	3	5
Warwick	15	30	4	2	5
Westerly	9	18	2	3	4
North Kingstown	14	28	4	2	8
South Kingstown	27	54	8	3	6
East Greenwich	8	16	2	2	19
Smithfield	16	32	5	0	26
Scituate	12	24	3	3	11
Glocester	10	20	3	1	12
Charlestown	7	14	2	1	4
West Greenwich	6	12	1	3	15
Coventry	7	14	2	1	20
Exeter	8	16	2	2	13
Bristol	7	14	2	1	15
Tiverton	11	22	3	1	27
Little Compton	10	20	3	0	10
Warren	3	6	1	0	3
Cumberland	7	14	1	3	22
Richmond	6	12	1	3	12
Cranston	11	22	3	2	6
Hopkinton	8	16	2	2	6
Johnston	5	10	1	1	24
North Providence	5	10	1	1	16
Barrington	4	8	1	0	19
	250	500	80	0	0

It is voted and resolved, that the above apportionment of flour, iron and blankets, ordered to be apportioned to the several towns within this state, be, and the same is, approved of.

That the persons hereafter named, be appointed to procure the blankets proportioned to the said towns; and that they deliver the same, within ten days after the rising of this Assembly, to either of the committees of safety within

the state, who are hereby directed to advance to the several committee-men in their respective counties the necessary sums for that purpose.

Names of the Persons appointed by the General Assembly to procure the Blankets from the several Towns.

For Providence—William Rhodes.
" Warwick—Benjamin Arnold, Jr.
" Westerly—Thomas Ross.
" North Kingstown—Daniel Hall; and in case of his refusal, Sylvester Gardner.
" South Kingstown—Enoch Haszard.
" East Greenwich—Thomas Tillinghast.
" Smithfield—Samuel Winsor.
" Scituate—Timothy Hopkins.
" Glocester—Asa Kimball.
" Charlestown—Robert Congdon.
" West Greenwich—Elisha Green.
" Coventry—John Greene.
" Exeter—John Chapman.
" Bristol—Stephen Smith.
" Tiverton—Isaac Manchester.
" Little Compton—Aaron Wilbur.
" Warren—Cromel Child.
" Richmond—Richard Bailey.
" Cranston—Randall Briggs.
" Hopkinton—Thomas Wells.
" Johnston—Ebenezer Sprague.
" North Providence—Joseph Olney.
" Barrington—Peleg Heath.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said committees do not give for the best of blankets a higher price than thirty shillings, lawful money; and for others in proportion.

That if any person within this state hath, in the opinion of said committee, a greater number of blankets than he is

in immediate want of, for the use of himself and family, and will not voluntarily dispose of the same, or of his proportion of what he may be possessed of, the said committee be empowered to impress the same, and pay the owner thereof, as much as the same shall appear to them to be worth, agreeably to this resolve.

That persons be appointed by said towns, to transport at the expense of the state, the flour and iron above proportioned, from Dartmouth, to their respective towns; and that the accounts for transportation of the same, be laid before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the committees of safety in this state, be, and they are hereby, directed and empowered to purchase, at the stated price, of the farmers and other proprietors of leather, a sufficient quantity to make two thousand pair of shoes.

That they forthwith have them made for the use of the soldiers raised by this state; and that in case any person having more than for his family's use, shall withhold his leather from sale, the said committees shall seize and impress the same out of the hands of such persons; paying them the stated price therefor, until the quantity necessary for the purpose aforesaid, be procured.

And it is further voted and resolved, that those persons who shall frankly and freely sell their leather to the said committee at the stated prices as aforesaid, without impressing, shall have the preference in purchasing the raw hides which may be at the disposal of this state.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Col. Thomas Church, for six boatmen, stationed at Seaconnet Point	36	00	00
Beriah Wait, for carrying expresses	5	00	00
Samuel Potter, for carrying expresses to Providence	2	05	00
Joseph Belcher, for copper gun-ladles, nails, &c.	7	17	00
" " " nails for flat-bottomed boats	3	09	06

	£	s.	d.
Joseph Belcher, for pails, and sundry other articles, for the use of the troops,	2	14	04
Josias Lyndon, for attendance on the General Assembly, at South Kingstown	2	07	02
Daniel Branch, for cleaning the state house, in Providence; and for coal and candles for the use of the Assembly		06	00
Ichabod Babcock, Jr., for carrying express from Westerly, to Little Rest Hill, in South Kingstown; and from thence to Providence	2	14	00
Caleb Gardner, Jr., for carrying express to General West	1	10	00
Ebenezer Cole, for victualling sixteen soldiers, who were on guard at Warren		16	00
Nathaniel Mumford, for his services as one of the committee of audit	12	12	00
Major Richard Bailey, for taking an account of the number of inhabitants in the town of Richmond	2	14	00
Thomas Potter, Jr., for keeping the light house in Kings county	6	03	09
Jonathan Peck, for carrying express from Col. Babcock to the General Assembly, at East Greenwich		15	00
Ebenezer Tefft and Richard Chappel, for attendance as waiters, &c., on the General Assembly	3	16	00
Josias Lyndon, as clerk of the house	1	16	00
Enoch Stanton, for his services as armorer to Col. Lippitt's regiment	20	00	00
Hon. William Bradford, for his services in attending Col. Putnam, to lay out lines on Rhode Island, &c.	16	07	04
Levi Maxwell, for freight of carriage guns, to East Greenwich	3	00	00
Richard Smith, for expenses in taking possession of sundry farms in Bristol, in behalf of the state	6	00	00
Benjamin Stelle, for effects lost on Rhode Island, in consequence of his being the officer of a flag of truce, sent to Block Island, at the time Rhode Island was evacuated	39	10	00
Henry Ward, for writing paper, sealing wax, and wafers, for the use of the secretary's office	22	11	06
William Waterman, for ten reams of paper, for the use of the state	20	00	00
Beriah Waite, for carrying expresses to town clerks and military officers	2	02	00
Edward Taylor, for the use of a sulky, to carry a French officer to Lebanon, on his way to join Gen. Washington's army	1	04	00
Dr. John Bartlett, for his services as surgeon to Rhode Island brigade and director of the Rhode Island hospital	21	00	00
Dr. William Wittridge, for attendance on sick soldiers, at Howland's Ferry,	15	11	00
James Rhodes, for provisions, &c., furnished to guard, on Watch Hill	20	05	11
Cromel Child, for materials furnished, and for labor done, in repairing the row-galley Spitfire	231	09	04
Enoch Hazard, for fire-arms and accoutrements furnished the inhabitants of South Kingstown	41	18	10
Ambrose Peck, for repairing small arms, for the use of the state	19	06	06
Cromel Child, for iron-work for the row-galley Spitfire	68	09	00
Peleg Simmons, for eight day's service and horse-hire, in taking an account of the inhabitants of Tiverton	2	14	00
Rowse J. Helme, for attendance as clerk to Assembly, and the committee of war	12	00	00
Zebedee Hopkins, for numbering the inhabitants of Glocester	5	08	00
Sarah Gray, for a boat taken from Howland's Ferry, by Generals West and Malmedy, which was subsequently burnt by the enemy	67	15	00

Col. John Weight, for a pay-roll of a detachment of his company.....	27 10 06
John Reynolds, for his expenses to Boston, to buy clothing	7 13 00
William Dyer, for express and horse-hire, to Hartford	4 04 00
William Channing, for services on the Assembly, assistant clerk.....	3 06 00

God save the United States of America.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the Committee of Safety of New Hampshire.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,
In the lower House of Assembly.

Providence, March 5th, 1777.

Gentlemen:—As you have not sent any of the troops assigned by the committee of the New England states, as your quota, for the defence of this state, I must now desire that you would, with all possible despatch, send forward the number at least allotted you.

The reason I must now be so urgent, is very obvious; the troops sent forward here by Connecticut and Massachusetts are all militia, and their time is now mostly out. You are sensible, gentlemen, that after the time the militia is engaged for expires, there is no retaining them.

The season is now very fast approaching when the enemy will not be idle. One-third part of all the men within this state, have been called forth upon duty ever since the enemy took possession of Rhode Island, which labors very hard with us; they have done duty for one month, and then been relieved; and the last division is now going to take their tour.

Arguments to hasten your levies, are, I am sure, at this time unnecessary. The consequences of suffering the enemy to get possession of any advantageous place upon the main land, is such, that will induce you to take every measure in your power to prevent it. And unless we have such numbers here, as to make an attack upon them, they may soon spread desolation in the country adjacent to Rhode Island; and as Gen. Washington has respectfully pressed our filling up our Continental battalions, and sending them forward, we can't but complain of the neglect of our neighboring states in not sending us the assistance agreed to, which puts it out of our power to comply with His Excellency's strongest recommendations.

I am, with great esteem and regard, gentlemen,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Committee of Safety, New Hampshire.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gov. Trumbull, of Connecticut.

Providence, March 14, 1777.

Sir:—This state feels much difficulty and distress in consequence of an order or regulation passed in the state of Connecticut, prohibiting any provisions to come from thence to this. We are greatly concerned at the event of such a measure; for this resource being cut off, we cannot find any other sufficient to enable us to support such of the army as do and must remain amongst us, besides the new troop raised and raising for the Continental service.

This state doth not raise a sufficiency of provision for the common inhabitants, even

in peaceable times, much less now, when the large body of troops kept up here, hath consumed all the stock in the neighboring parts.

The public service, as we think, must receive great detriment by an adherence to this prohibition; and we have so great an opinion of the public spirit of Connecticut, as to believe that upon a review of their act, they will be induced to repeal it, so far as respects us. Your government is an important link in the American chain; and without your continuance of every usual supply of provisions, we shall not only be greatly distressed, but it will become exeeeding difficult, if not impossible, for us to render those services to the United States, which both our duty and desires coincide to move us.

We are greatly affected already by the operation of your regulation, although it be but of a short standing; and we fear the worst of consequences both to the army and our inhabitants, should it remain in force.

I am, with great truth and regard, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

NICH. COOKE.

To the Honorable Governor Trumbull.

Gov. Trumbull to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Lebanon, May 6, 1777.

Sir:—Col. Russell and David Hoswell, Esq., your committee, have communicated to me your resolves and proposals of making an attack on Rhode Island, in co-operation with the New England sister states, and agreeably to the recommendation of Congress. The plan is very desirable, and would be of great importance. I wish to forward the undertaking.

This state is now greatly threatened, and we have reason to expect descents upon various parts at once; and have in consequence given out orders to detach for different parts, a fourth part of our whole militia and alarm roll, which is now beginning to execute. The ——— attended with great difficulty at this most critical season.

My Council is not with me, nor can possibly be convened before our election on the 8th ————. I will lay the matter before the Assembly as early as possible, and if practicable I have no doubt they will send their proportionable assistance. My best endeavors shall be exerted to promote it.

Nothing, however, is essential which is not in our power to supply; I mean the article of arms. We are at the greatest difficulty to supply our quota of the army; and the present draughts of militia. If you can furnish, or procure them from Boston or elsewhere, it will be an encouragement to our attempts; and without it, I think our men will be badly armed; please to let me know what may be expected.

As it is impossible for me to give a decisive answer, the gentlemen of your committee think it most proper for them to attend our Assembly, and they shall be furnished with as early an answer as possible.

I am, sir, with much esteem and regard,

Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

JON'TH. TRUMBULL.

P. S. To obtain the arms so much needed here, I have enclosed a request to the honorable board of war, at Boston, to sell us and deliver to your order two thousand stands of arms, or such number as can be spared. We wish to promote the intended expedition all in our power, and doubt not your readiness to promote our obtaining arms,

Gen. Malmedy to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Morristown, May 19th, 1777.

Honorable Sir:—Permit me to remind you that the Assembly of Rhode Island, in consideration of the small number of troops raised in that state, (which was a prudent measure, and from wise motives of economy,) resolved to dismiss their three brigadier generals. It even condescended to offer me a gratification for my services, as a testimony of their satisfaction; and Your Honor has been pleased, likewise, to make an advantageous representation of my conduct; all which, does me honor, and has disposed the Honorable Congress, His Excellency and all worthy persons to think favorably of me; however, this good disposition towards me, is not universal; for evil-minded people, ever ready to misconstrue facts, have interpreted my dismission in a manner highly injurious to my reputation.

I know and respect the good intentions of the gentlemen who compose your Assembly; and therefore cannot believe that they meant to do me harm in sending me to the army; and after premising this, I shall hesitate not a moment to acquaint you with the subject of my apprehensions and uneasiness, hoping from a continuance of good offices, to remove the prejudices and malicious insinuations of the malevolent against my character.

I came into America with the consent of the French generals, and upon assurance that my services here would be agreeable to my country. I am obliged to render them an account of my conduct in the armies of the States. I could not do this better, than by informing them that through the recommendation and confidence of General Lee, the state of Rhode Island has honored me with the rank of brigadier general; and I've just now received the general of Martinico's compliments thereupon.

If the reputation of a French officer through the affection of his country for your cause, be absolutely established, by his fulfilling his duty in your armies, I beg you will consider how critical the situation the bare suspicion of the contrary must bring him into; my dismission after five months' promotion, must necessarily leave some suspicions in a kingdom, where the spirit of honor and good conduct can alone recommend to, and maintain officers in posts and places.

Be pleased to put a favorable construction on my inquietude. I know not what judgment the people in general of this continent may pass on these matters, unless I may be allowed to form an idea from the expressive letter which General Washington wrote upon the subject.

Wherefore, since my services at Rhode Island have met with your approbation, permit me, through Your Honor, to ask a favor of the Assembly, that will be of infinite service to me. Your Honors dismissed me from the maxims of economy, and because you had but few troops. I entreat you will again honor me with the rank of brigadier general, without any pay, and without the least pretension of being employed by you, unless Your Honors should think proper to demand my services. This will be a rank merely honorary, which will confirm the distinction you formerly conferred on me, without any solicitation on my part.

If the principles of your administration, sir, permit you to pay any attention to what so essentially concerns my reputation, and to grant my petition, be pleased to grant this rank to Monsieur François de Malmedy, colonel. The Congress sent me this commission on the 10th May. In which case, there will be no degradation, and I shall enjoy in tranquillity the effects of your bounty.

I am, with profound respect, honored sir,
Your most obedient and very humble servant,
(Signed) MALMEDY.

To Honorable Governor Cooke.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the third Monday in June, 1777.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Major Simeon Thayer be, and he is hereby, appointed to receive of Royzel Smith, late captain of a company in one of the Continental battalions, the enlistments of the men by him enlisted into the said battalions, or in the fifteen months regiments; and an account of the moneys by him received for the purposes aforesaid; and that the said Royzel Smith be, and is hereby, required to deliver said enlistments, and render said account, accordingly; and Major Thayer is further empowered to bring the said Royzel Smith to the town of Providence, in order that he may be examined before this Assembly, or a committee thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that as often as either of the committees of safety are ready to have their accounts audited, that they lay them before the standing committee, who are hereby directed to receive and audit the same, and return them to the General Assembly, with the vouchers.

It is voted and resolved, that £130, lawful money, be allowed to Joseph Clarke, Esq., general treasurer, for his extraordinary services the year past, exclusive of his salary.

Whereas, Capt. Jabez Westcoat hath received £48 12*s.*, of Capt. Thomas Carlile; which sum hath been retained by the said Thomas, for the clothing, pay and billeting of certain soldiers who have enlisted into the Continental battalions,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that said Westcoat

settle with Major Simeon Thayer respecting the same; and that Major Thayer render an account thereof, to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Cromel Child and Sylvester Child, Esqs., who were heretofore appointed to make inquiry after the personal estate of William Vassall, Esq., and to make an inventory thereof, be, and they are hereby, empowered in behalf of this state, to commence actions against John Waldron, ——— Cushing, Hezekiah Munro, and Stephen Munro, for the recovery thereof; and also for the rents due from them, or either of them, for the real estates of the said William Vassall and Thomas Palmer.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Brown and John Jenckes, with the standing committee, be appointed a committee to count the money now in the treasury; and that they make report to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the standing committees forthwith make out an account of the sums of money advanced by this state for the recruiting service, and the names of the officers to whom they were paid; and that they make report to this Assembly, or, in the recess thereof, to the council of war, to the end that the same may be transmitted to the paymaster of the battalions in which they serve.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said paymasters, upon the receipt of said accounts, forthwith procure a settlement thereof; and that they produce the same, with the vouchers, to this Assembly, or in the recess thereof, to the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that the rules and regulations ordered by Congress, for the Continental ships and vessels of war, be introduced into this state, for the government of all ships and vessels of war in the service thereof.

That the commissioned officers of any vessel of war, or the major part of them, not consisting of less than three, be empowered to hold courts martial for the trial of all non-commissioned officers and privates belonging thereto.

And that the council of war, appointed to act in the re-

cess of the General Assembly, be empowered to hold courts martial upon any commissioned officer belonging to any ship or vessel of war in the service of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. George Irish be permitted to come before this Assembly on Thursday next, being the 19th instant.

Whereas, Major Hezekiah Bissell preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that he hath been applied to by the proprietors and owners of the powder mill in Windham, to procure for their use a quantity of rum, and to forward the same; in consequence of which, he has, with much difficulty, obtained near one hundred gallons of West India and New England rum, and was about to remove the same; but finds that, by a late act of this Assembly, that said articles cannot be removed without permission first had for that purpose; and thereupon prayed for liberty to remove the said rum from Providence to said Windham, without being considered as acting against the design of said embargo; and further represented that he has been for some months past, possessed of about ten gallons of spirits, one barrel of sugar, and a few dozen of port wine, which he purchased for his family's use, and which he prayed might also be included in said permit; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the aforegoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that the price of salt, manufactured or imported within this state, be not limited in future; any act to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that Major Pardon Gray distribute the corn and barley in his hands, belonging to this state, to the poor inhabitants of the town of Tiverton; barley at three shillings and sixpence per bushel; and corn to the families of the soldiers, at three shillings and sixpence per bushel; and to all others at four shillings per bushel; and that he account therefor to this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Ebenezer Harris be per-

mitted to carry a hogshead of sugar (which he bought of Mr. Joseph Whipple before the state bill was passed) from Providence, to the house of Mr. John Greene (son of Thomas), in Coventry, within this state.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, chose the following officers, in the brigade raising by this state, for fifteen months, to wit:

Officers Chosen for the Brigade.

William Barton, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Nathaniel Hawkins, Esq., major, of the first regiment.

Archibald Crary, Esq., colonel; John Topham, Esq., lieutenant colonel; James Williams, major, of the second regiment.

Peleg Hoxsie and Benjamin Hoppin, captains in Colonel Stanton's regiment.

John Carr and Benajah Whipple, captains in Col. Crary's regiment.

Officers Chosen for the First Regiment.

William Gardner, first lieutenant, in Captain Hoxsie's company.

William Whipple, first lieutenant, in Captain Phillips's company.

Christopher Phillips, second lieutenant, in Capt. Phillips's company.

Christopher Champlin, second lieutenant, in Capt. Dyer's company.

Joshua Babcock, second lieutenant, in Capt. Thompson's company.

George Tennant, second lieutenant, in Captain Hoppen's company.

John Welch, ensign in Capt. Hoxsie's company.

Newman Herring, ensign, in Capt. Phillips's company.

Randall Rice, ensign, in Capt. Dyer's company.

Andrew Stanton, ensign, in Capt. Thompson's company.
Thomas Parker, ensign, in Capt. Gibbs's company.
Arnold Bentley, ensign, in Capt. Hammett's company.

Officers Chosen for the Second Regiment.

Nathan Olney, first lieutenant, in Capt. Carr's company.

Zadock Williams, first lieutenant, in Captain Whipple's company.

Nathan Carpenter, first lieutenant, in Captain Riggs's company.

Benjamin Walcutt, first lieutenant, in Captain Ballou's company.

Jacob Belknap, second lieutenant, in Captain Ballou's company.

Daniel Sheldon, second lieutenant in Captain Whipple's company.

Aaron Wilbur, Jr., second lieutenant, in Captain Manchester's company.

Alexander Thomas, second lieutenant, in Capt. Riggs's company.

Eleazar Randall, ensign, in Capt. Whipple's company.
Benjamin Wilcox, ensign, in Capt. Manchester's company.
Mathew Maxson, Jr., ensign, in Capt. Parker's company.
Simeon Dexter, ensign, in Capt. Ballou's company.
Reuben Read, ensign, in Capt. Carr's company.
Elijah Armstrong, ensign, in Capt. Allen's company.

Joseph Cornell, ensign, in the Continental battalion raised by this state, under the command of Col. Greene, in the room of Nathaniel Phillips, who hath resigned.

It is voted and resolved, that a hogshead of rum, belonging to Mr. Samuel Dunn, Jr., lately seized in the town of North Providence, and stored in the house of Mr. Jonathan Jenckes, Jr., be delivered the said Samuel; and that he be permitted to carry the same to Boston, for the stores of two vessels bound from thence to France.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Jacob Greene be, and

he is hereby, permitted to send upon Block Island a boat, in order to bring off a negro boy belonging to General Greene; and that the boat depart under the care, direction and inspection of Col. Joseph Noyes.

Whereas, John Northup and Sylvester Gardner, Esqs., preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that Stukely Westcoat, collector of rates for the town of North Kingstown, was taken and carried by the enemy, from said town, to the island of Rhode Island; that great difficulty has since arisen in collecting the rates within said town, as no account can be had from whom they have been collected by the said Westcoat; and thereupon, the petitioners, agreeably to a vote of said town, requested this Assembly to empower James Congdon, the present collector of rates within said town, to administer an oath or affirmation to any person who appears to be indebted for any rates within said town, and who cannot otherwise make it appear that he hath paid the same, that he hath well and truly paid and satisfied the said rates to the said Stutely Westcoat; and if any person shall refuse to take said oath or affirmation, that the said James Congdon be empowered to collect said rates agreeably to law.

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

Major John Nelson having exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the state, for the wages and expenses of three companies of men, belonging to Col. Sproat's regiment, who marched from Middleborough, in the county of Plymouth, and state of the Massachusetts Bay, to Tiverton, in order to go as volunteers in an expedition on Rhode Island,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said account be referred to Mr. John Smith, who is empowered to pay so much thereof, as shall appear to him to be due, to the said Major John Nelson.

Whereas, Messrs. Joseph Hoxsie, Gideon Hoxsie and James Babcock, Jr., presented unto this Assembly the following report and account, to wit:

Report of the Committee.

We, the subscribers, being by the General Assembly, at their session in South Kingstown, on the 21st day of May last, appointed a committee to receive of Mr. Silas Niles the stock belonging to the farm lately improved by him, agreeably to the lease and schedule he received from the state, do report:

That, in obedience to said appointment, we have received of the said Silas Niles the stock belonging to said farm, which is agreeably to his lease and schedule; and have delivered the same to Messrs. Stephen Champlin and Job Watson.

All which is submitted to Your Honors, by your humble servants,

JOSEPH HOXSIE, JAMES BABCOCK, JR.,
GIDEON HOXSIE, Committee.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Ward, Jonathan Arnold, Joshua Babcock, Esek Hopkins and Paul Mumford, Esqrs., be a committee, to draught a letter in answer to the one received from Sir Peter Parker.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Stephen Jenckes be requested to examine the beef and pork in his possession, belonging to this state; and if necessary, that he have the same re-packed.

It is voted and resolved, that Samuel Haley be, and he is hereby, permitted to carry a barrel of sugar, from the town of Providence, to the state of Connecticut, for the use of his family, who have lately removed from this state.

Whereas, Col. George Irish preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that he conceives his being confined, and restrained of his liberty, is a grievance, and great damage to him and to the public; he being conscious that he ever was, and still is, a friend to his native country, and at all times ready and willing to give his assistance for the defence of it; and that he conceives nothing has appeared against him, if taken in the most unfavorable light, sufficient to continue his confinement, although it might be thought expedient when done; and thereupon prayed this

Assembly to take his distressed situation into consideration, and grant him his liberty; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be granted, upon his, the said George Irish, giving his parole that he will not go off the main land, without leave from His Honor the Governor, or the council of war.

Whereas, Major Simeon Thayer, who was appointed to bring Mr. Royzel Smith before this Assembly, presented unto this Assembly the following report, written upon a copy of his appointment, to wit:

Report.

Pursuant to the resolution of the General Assembly, I proceeded to the town of Hopkinton, the usual place of the said Royzel Smith's abode, the said Smith being absent and gone to Stonington; to which place I proceeded and found him, and have him now in custody.

He saith he is ready now to account for his conduct, before the General Assembly, or the council of war, or any committee that shall be appointed for that purpose.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; and that the said Royzel Smith settle with Chas. Holden, paymaster to one of the Continental battalions raising within this state, for the money received of him for recruiting said battalion; and with Mr. John Smith, for the money received of him for recruiting in the fifteen months' service.

It is voted and resolved, that Peter Phillips, Esq., be empowered to draw £500, lawful money, out of the general treasury, to discharge the rations, mileage, &c., of the soldiers; the said Peter Phillips to return the same, on demand.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war be, and they are hereby, empowered, in the recess of the General Assembly, to pass and allow such accounts, as may be produced to them for payment, as appear reasonable; such accounts first passing the standing committee, or either of

them; and being certified in the usual manner, previous to their allowance.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Thomas Crab and Doct. Tappen be, and they are hereby, permitted with their teams, containing thirty hogsheads of rum, thirty hogsheads of sugar, one cask of Jesuits's bark, and two boxes of medicine, which were purchased in the state of the Massachusetts Bay, for the use of the Continental army, to pass through this state, into the state of Connecticut, unmolested; any law to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that the sugar now in the possession of this state, late belonging to Messrs. George Gibbs and Francis Brinley, be retained for the use of the troops raised by this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Joseph Lawrence be permitted to remove fifteen hogsheads of brown, and six of loaf sugar, in his possession, belonging to Mr. Halstead, to the town of Johnston.

Both houses in a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, to wit:

Officers Chosen for the Militia.

John Handy, brigade major, in the fifteen months' brigade, raising by this state.

Simeon Martin, adjutant of Col. Crary's regiment.

Jonathan Hayes, second lieutenant; Samuel Snow, third lieutenant, in Capt. Jabez Westcoat's company.

Amos Jilson, captain-lieutenant; Uriah Westcoat, first lieutenant; Isaac Pitman, second lieutenant; Wm. Badger, third lieutenant, in Capt. Gideon Westcoat's company.

William Nightingale, first lieutenant; William Page, second lieutenant; Joseph West, third lieutenant, in Capt. Garzia's company.

John Baker, first lieutenant; Christopher Robinson, second lieutenant; Squire Howe, third lieutenant, in Captain Adams's company.

Ebenezer Spencer, Esq., major, of the first regiment of militia, for the county of Kent, in the room of Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., who resigns.

William Hall, captain; John Shaw, lieutenant, of the first company in East Greenwich.

Gideon Harris, ensign, of the third company of militia, in the town of Scituate, in the room of Samuel Angell, who declines.

John Eddy, captain; Stephen Olney, lieutenant; John Bowen, ensign, of the first company of militia, in the town of Glocester.

Joseph Mauran, captain of the row-galley Washington.

In Council was read the return of Joseph Hawkins, Jr., being appointed ensign, of the company of North Providence Rangers; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that said choice be, and hereby is, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that the act laying an embargo on vessels within this state be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Provided nevertheless, that no rum, sugar, molasses, cotton-wool, coffee, tanned leather, sheep's wool, sheep, butter and cheese, or any such other articles as are prohibited by Congress from being exported, shall be carried out of this state, in any vessel, under any pretence whatever, unless a permit therefor, shall be granted by this Assembly, or, in the recess thereof, by the council of war.

That if any person shall be convicted of having carried, or attempted to carry, out of this state, any of the aforementioned articles, he shall forfeit the articles so carried, or attempted to be carried, out of this state; one-half thereof, to the prosecutor, and the other half to and for the use of this state; to be recovered by bill, plaint or information.

It is voted and resolved, that the small arms heretofore purchased by this state, for such persons as should be adjudged unable to furnish themselves therewith, be delivered to the committees of safety, for the use of the fifteen

months' battalions, and train of artillery, raising within this state.

Whereas, an additional bounty of £6, lawful money, was allowed at the last session of this Assembly, to each non-commissioned officer and private who should enlist into the fifteen months' brigade raising by this state, before the 10th day of June instant; which time hath elapsed; and whereas, the said brigade is as yet not filled,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that said additional bounty of £6, be allowed to each non-commissioned officer and private, who shall enlist into the said brigade, within twenty days from and after the rising of this Assembly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that no person appointed an officer in the said brigade, at this Assembly, be commissioned, or be entitled to pay or rations as an officer, until he shall have enlisted the number of men according to his rank, as hereafter mentioned, within twenty days after the rising of this Assembly, to wit:

A captain, twenty men; a first lieutenant, sixteen men; a second lieutenant, twelve men; and an ensign, ten men; and make return thereof, to the council of war, or, if sitting, to this Assembly; and upon making such return, that he shall be commissioned, and entitled to pay and rations, from the time of his appointment.

And it is further voted and resolved, that a copy hereof, be forthwith transmitted to each of the colonels in the said brigade.

It is voted and resolved, that five vessels be immediately purchased in behalf of this state; that two of them be fitted out as armed vessels to cruise against the enemies of the United States; and three, as merchantmen, to import such articles as the council of war shall direct.

That the said council of war be empowered to appoint a committee, to purchase and fit out said vessels; that the same be done under their direction and inspection, as soon as may be; and that said committee be allowed such commissions as the said council of war shall agree on, not ex-

ceeding two and one-half per cent. for transacting the business.

It is voted and resolved, that £100 be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury, to the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor of this state, for his salary and extraordinary services the last year.

It is voted and resolved, that £50 per year be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury, to the Honorable William Bradford, Esq., Deputy Governor, for his salary and extraordinary services, from the 9th day of October, A. D. 1775, until the general election in May last.

Whereas, the committee, who were appointed to prepare the draught of a letter to the delegates of this state, in Congress, laid before this Assembly a draught of said letter; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, approved; and that a fair copy thereof be made, signed by His Honor the Governor, and immediately forwarded.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Charles Holden, Jr., and Jonathan Hazard, paymasters to the two battalions raising by this state, for the Continental service, be, and they are hereby, appointed storekeepers for their respective battalions, to receive and sell out to the officers and soldiers thereof, such articles of supply as may be furnished by this state, at the stated prices and cost of transportation.

That they account for whatever articles they shall receive, to this state, from time to time, when demanded; and that, for their care and trouble, in this behalf, they be allowed each £6 per month, and two rations per day.

Whereas, by an act of this Assembly, for preventing monopoly and oppression, the several towns within this state were directed to appoint three, five, or seven persons, within their respective towns, before the 10th day of June instant, who were to be under oath to prosecute all breaches of said act which should come to their knowledge; and whereas, many towns did not appoint said persons until after said

time had elapsed, and others have not yet appointed persons agreeably to said act,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the persons who have been elected and sworn for the purposes mentioned in said act, since said time hath elapsed, be empowered to execute the office to which they are appointed, agreeably to said act.

And the towns who have not elected the persons agreeably to said act, are directed and empowered to elect said persons for the purposes therein mentioned, within five days after the rising of this Assembly, upon the penalty of £200, lawful money, to be recovered for the use of this state, by the general treasurer thereof, by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within this state; any thing in said act to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Thomas Allin, for cleaning arms, making bayonets, ram-rods, &c.	18	02	02
Dr. William Bowen, for taking care of a sick soldier, at Pawtuxet	5	18	00
David Dexter, for medical attendance on his son Ensign Samuel Dexter	19	17	00
Dr. Reuben Mason, for his services as surgeon to General William West's brigade	7	16	00
Philip Paine, for paper for making a book of records, for the secretary's office	2	00	06
Daniel Mowry, for twenty-six guns and bayonets, purchased by order of the town council of Smithfield, for the poor inhabitants of that town	109	04	00
Jeremiah Wilcox, for storage and deliveries of salt, belonging to the state	12	02	06
Stephen Jenckes, for repairs of Pawtucket Bridge	36	00	00
Elijah Bacon, for expense of express to Taunton and Dighton	1	11	06
Rev. James Manning, for posts, rails and stakes, taken by soldiers, for fuel	18	00	00
John Brown, for sulphur, and medicines purchased by him, by order of the council of war	845	02	00
James Waterman, for boarding nine prisoners of war	42	08	08
Paul Tew, for taking care of the court house, and furnishing wood and candles	32	04	04
Josias Lyndon, for services as clerk of the house	4	07	02
Thomas Greene, for services as one of the audit committee	13	16	00
Thomas Wells, authorized to draw on account of bounty to soldiers	372	00	00
Joshua Babcock, " " " " "	468	00	00
John Northup, one of the committee of safety, authorized to draw for	500	00	00

God save the United States of America.

The Governor of Rhode Island to William Ellery and Henry Marchant, Delegates in the Continental Congress.

Providence, June 22d, 1777.

Gentlemen :—The prodigious expenses of so considerable a body of men as we have been, and are, obliged to keep up, to defend the country against that part of the enemy who are in possession of Rhode Island, and the necessary supplies to the other troops stationed in this government, together with the large sums expended upon our Continental battalions, have so far exhausted our treasury, that unless we obtain assistance from Congress, we shall very soon be constrained to add a new emission to the floods of paper bills already circulating.

We have now in the treasury only between £30,000 and £40,000, which we suppose will be paid out before it will be possible to receive supplies from Philadelphia. You are fully sensible of the almost irreparable mischiefs that have been already occasioned by such large emissions of bills, and of the fatal consequences that will attend further emissions. Indeed, every one is at length convinced of the absolute necessity of lessening their quantity.

We therefore direct you to make immediate application to Congress, for a supply of £60,000, to be paid to the order of this Assembly, or of the council of war ; and to use your utmost endeavors to obtain it. Our demands upon Congress for such expenditures as are properly Continental charges, since our accounts were last forwarded, amount to near that sum ; our accounts we will transmit as soon as possible.

Should it be thought proper, an order upon the Continental loan office, in this state, will be the most expeditious mode of supply, and will save us the expense and risk of bringing the money from Philadelphia. In this case, it will be necessary to transmit more blank notes to the commissioner, as those he hath received, are already disposed of.

We are, gentlemen,

Your most humble servants,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To Hon. William Ellery and Henry Marchant, Esqs.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on Monday, the 7th day of July, 1777.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Mr. Joseph Bennett, of New Providence, in the county of Berkshire, and state of Massachusetts Bay, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that

on or about the 5th day of November, 1776, he purchased in the town of Providence a number of casks of rum, sugar and salt, with some other small articles, and on his return home, engaged three teams to transport the said goods; but through misfortune, one of the teams failed, and he had only two loads transported; by which means, one hogshead of salt, one tierce of sugar, and some small articles were left in Providence, until some time in the winter past, when he sent a team for the remaining articles, but obtained only the hogshead of salt, by reason that his friend had sent the sugar and other articles into the country for safety; that he stands in great need of said sugar for his own family's use, and has procured a team, which is now waiting to transport the same; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him liberty to remove the same out of this state; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the petitioner be permitted to remove the said tierce of sugar and other small articles into the state of the Massachusetts Bay, or any other of the United States, without molestation.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Isaac Hilyard be, and he is hereby, permitted to remove two hogsheads of sugar from the town of Tiverton into Connecticut; the same having been purchased and brought from the state of Massachusetts into this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the standing committee forthwith make out an account of the monies expended for the use of the prisoners of war, and of the sums paid to them by this state; and that they make report to this Assembly, or in the recess thereof, to the council of war, that the same may be transmitted to the board of war, in Philadelphia, agreeably to a resolve of Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety within this state be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed, immediately to collect the guns, bayonets and cartouch-boxes, belonging to this state, and not appropriated to

the several towns, and therewith furnish the fifteen months' brigade, raising within this state; and if said guns, bayonets and cartouch-boxes, should not be sufficient for the purpose aforesaid, that they collect so many of the guns, bayonets and cartouch-boxes, appropriated to the several towns, as shall be necessary for supplying the deficiency; and the persons in the several towns who are possessed of the said appropriated guns, &c., are directed to deliver the same, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the several towns within this state be, and they are hereby, permitted to erect hospitals within their respective towns, for the purpose of inoculating for the small pox, under the regulations and restrictions contained in an act heretofore made and passed granting permission for erecting hospitals for the purpose aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that for the future, when the companies of the militia and alarm-list within this state, or draughts or detachments thereof, shall be called out to duty, and the number of each company, draught or detachment, shall not exceed twenty-four rank and file, it shall be in the power of the commanding officer of the regiment to which they respectively belong, to incorporate them into companies during the time of their service, and direct the attendance of such commissioned officers as shall comport with the number of the companies so incorporated, agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly, of the 20th of April last (allowing, where the case will admit, one commissioned officer, at least, to each town), and to dismiss all supernumerary officers, who may attend with such draughts, detachments, or companies, before they enter on duty.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Ward, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to proceed immediately to the state of Massachusetts Bay, to represent to the General Assembly of said state the deplorable condition and circumstances of this government, and to urge the most pressing instances for immediate and effectual assistance.

It is voted and resolved, that William Vincent, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to repair the bridge in Westerly, dividing between this and the state of Connecticut.

That he from time to time keep in repair such part of said bridge as belongeth to this state to keep up and maintain; and that he make report thereof, to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the non-commissioned officers and privates in the train of artillery, be not permitted in future to enlist into the Continental battalions; any resolve to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that a committee of three persons be appointed in behalf of this state, to meet committees from the General Assemblies of the states of New Hampshire, Massachsetts Bay, Connecticut and New York, at the town of Springfield, in the county of Hampshire, in the state of Massachusetts Bay, on the thirtieth day of this instant July, in case said Assemblies shall think fit to appoint such committees; then and there to hold a conference respecting the state of the paper currency of the said states; of the expediency of calling in the same by taxes, or otherwise; of the most effectual, expeditious and equal method of doing it, and to consult upon the best means for preventing the depreciation and counterfeiting the same; and also to consider what is proper to be done with respect to the acts lately made to prevent monopoly and oppression, and to confer upon the late acts for preventing the transportation by land of certain articles from one state to another; and to consider such other matters as concern the immediate welfare of said states, and are not repugnant to, or interfering with the powers and authorities of the Continental Congress; and particularly to consider of, and solicit some more sure and effectual method to keep up a sufficient army to oppose that body of the enemy which is now in possession of the island of Rhode Island; and that they report the result oftheir conference to this General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that one of the divisions, consisting of the one-sixth part of the independent and alarm

companies and militia heretofore draughted, and one-half of a division, be immediately called upon actual duty.

That the field officers of the several regiments of militia, and commanders of independent and alarm companies, call upon duty the division which is next in order to the division which last did duty, agreeably to said draught; and one-half of the next succeeding division, to be draughted under the direction of said field officers and commanders of companies.

That they continue in service for the space of fifteen days, and be relieved at the expiration of said time, by the other half of said division, and one other division, in the order in which said divisions were drawn, to continue in service during said time; and that the divisions on actual duty from time to time, be relieved and do duty in manner as is before directed.

It is further voted and resolved, that a bounty of ten shillings, lawful money, be allowed to each non-commissioned officer and soldier who hath been draughted, and shall do duty, as aforesaid.

And further, that all fines which shall be incurred for delinquency, after deducting the costs and fees for collecting the same, shall be equally divided among the non-commissioned officers and soldiers doing duty, who belong to the same town with the delinquents who shall neglect to do duty.

It is further voted and resolved, that in case any officer or soldier in each division, who was draughted as aforesaid, shall neglect to appear at the time and place ordered by his respective superior officer or commander, either by himself or a good, able-bodied and suitable person in his stead, completely equipped with arms and accoutrements, to enter upon and perform such military duty as shall be enjoined him, he shall be liable to pay as a fine for each day's neglect, the sum of five shillings, lawful money; to be levied and collected by warrant of distress, from the captain or

other commanding officer of the company for the time being, directed to the clerk, unless the person so deficient, shall, before the expiration of said fifteen days, pay to the said captain or commanding officer of said company to which he belongs, the fine due for his not appearing, as aforesaid.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the several commanders of the respective companies who were draughted, as aforesaid, cause their several companies to be completely equipped with arms, and every other necessary accoutrement; and if any in said company, who have been adjudged by the town council in their respective towns, to be unable to furnish themselves therewith, shall appear not duly equipped, the commanders of said companies are directed to apply to said town councils, who are hereby empowered and directed to furnish them with arms and accoutrements, agreeably to the resolve of this Assembly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the secretary immediately transmit copies hereof, to the several colonels of militia, and commanders of independent and alram companies, within this state.

Names of Commissioners from Rhode Island to meet at Springfield, and of Officers for the Militia, Chosen.

Both houses in a grand committee, made choice of the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., the Honorable William Bradford, Esq., and Paul Mumford, Esq., to be a committe, to meet committees of the other New England states, and New York, at Springfield, on the 30th of July current.

Abraham Andrews, second lieutenant, in Captain Riggs's company, in Col. Crary's regiment, in the room of Alexander Thomas, who resigns.

Joseph Chace, ensign, in said company, in the room of Andrews, advanced.

Whereas, Joseph Drake, late of New Rochelle, in the state of New York, Esq., represented to this Assembly, that the

day the enemy took possession of that place, he was obliged to abandon his house and stores, with the greatest part of his effects, to the ravages of the enemy.

That in September last, he purchased in this state about forty-two hogsheads of sugar, in order to carry them into the state of New York; of which, for want of conveyance, he was obliged to leave twenty-two hogsheads in Providence.

That by a late act, laying a prohibition upon certain enumerated articles, he is prevented from the removal thereof; and that the sugars aforesaid, are intended for the supply of the army, and the inhabitants of the state of New York; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him liberty to remove the sugars aforesaid, into the said state of New York; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith deliver to Col. James Babcock two hundred flints, for the use of the town of Westerly; and two hundred flints to Mr. Benjamin Tillinghast, for the town of West Greenwich.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith deliver to Major Richard Bailey four hundred flints, for the use of the town of Richmond.

This Assembly having heretofore passed acts empowering the officers of the two Continental frigates in this state to impress seamen for the said ships upon an extraordinary occasion, which hath now ceased,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said acts be, and they are hereby, repealed.

This Assembly taking into consideration the great attention and assiduity with which Simeon Thayer, Esq., hath executed the office of major of the second Continental battalion raising by this state, and being willing to reward merit,—

Do resolve, that Mr. John Smith, one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, directed to procure a genteel silver-hilted sword, and present the same to the said Simeon

Thayer, as a testimony of the sense this Assembly hath of his services.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Charles Holden, for supplies furnished a company of volunteers	25	17	00
Col. Israel Angell, on account of transportation	4	06	09
Simeon Thayer, bounty for enlisting one hundred and twenty-seven men for the Continental battalion	50	16	00
Pardon Gray, for enlisting twenty-three men for brigade, and payment taken	276	00	00

God save the United States of America.

Jeremiah Powell, of Massachusetts, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

State of Massachusetts Bay,
Council Chamber, Boston, July 2d, 1777.

Sir:—The General Assembly of this state, taking into their consideration the state of the bills of credit emitted by this and the neighboring governments, and finding the measures that have already been adopted, particularly the act for preventing monopoly and oppression, and fixing the rates at which certain articles shall be sold at, have not effectually answered the purpose of supporting the credit of said bills, or preventing their depreciation, have chosen a committee to meet such committees, as may be appointed by the states of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, on the 30th day of July next, at the town of Springfield, in the county of Hampshire, within this state, to confer together upon this interesting subject, and consider what steps can be taken effectually to support the credit of the public currencies, and prevent their being counterfeited; and to confer upon such other matters as are particularly mentioned in the resolve enclosed.

This is a matter of great importance; and as the several New England States and the state of New York are so intimately connected with respect to their currencies, and have so great a commercial intercourse with each other, it appears highly expedient and necessary they should confer and consult upon the several matters above referred to, in order that they may, as near as possible, pursue one and the same plan for redressing those evils and for accommodating each other in every way consistent with the public safety.

It is not doubted, therefore, that you will concur with us in this measure, and we should be glad to hear from you upon the subject as soon as possible.

In the name and behalf of the General Assembly,

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JER. POWELL, President.

To the Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Esq.

P. S. We have addressed the Honorable Congress on the occasion and subject of this conference, in order to obviate any misconstructions of the same.

General Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Morristown, July 7th, 1777.

Sir:—I make no doubt but before this, you will have heard that the enemy have evacuated Jersey. This information I should have done myself the pleasure of transmitting you by the first opportunity after the event, had not my attention been employed in making a new disposition of the army, and had I apprehended it materially interesting that it should have come immediately from myself.

When Gen. Howe withdrew his forces from this state, and went to Staten Island, from the intelligence received at that time from Gen. St. Clair, at Ticonderoga, that the Canada army were on the lake, and approaching that post; and from every other circumstance, it appeared extremely probable, nay, almost certain to me, and to all the generals and other officers possessed of the facts, that Gen. Howe's first and immediate movement would be up the North River; and that the two armies meant to cooperate and favor each other's attack. This, I say, was my opinion, and that of my officers at that time, from a full consideration of the intelligence we then had. But I confess, however satisfied I was then upon this subject, I am now in extreme doubt respecting his intended operations.

Having heard nothing from Ticonderoga since the 26th ult., nor any further accounts of the enemy's approach in that quarter, we are left to conjecture whether their appearance on the lake was with a view to a real and serious attack, or whether to amuse and draw our attention that way, while a stroke is meditating against some other place. This uncertainty is rendered considerably greater, by the concurrent accounts of deserters, who have escaped from New York and Staten Island, in the course of a few days past. From their information, and a variety of circumstances, such as that berths are fitting up for the light horse on board the transports; provender taken in, and providing for three or four weeks; the embarkation of the officers' baggage, with their names and corps endorsed; the ships watering, &c., it would seem more probable that Gen. Howe has in contemplation some other object than the North River. Whether he has, or what it is, however, is yet entirely unknown.

I have thought it my duty, nevertheless, to give you this information, that if he should once more turn his arms against the Eastern States, you may not be taken by surprise; and that matters may be put in the best train circumstances will admit, to receive him.

On my part, no exertions in my power shall be wanting to counteract his plans wheresoever they are directed, and to render every service compatible with our general line of defence, and the interest of the states at large.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
GEO. WASHINGTON.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke.

Brig. Gen. F. Smith, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Newport, Rhode Island,
July 12th, 1777.

Sir:—Major General Prescott, having become a prisoner of yours, and having been carried off this island without any necessaries with him, I take the liberty to send his servant and such things as he may immediately want, presuming that he may be in-

indulged with the use of them; and not doubting that he will be treated with that attention which his rank and distinction claims.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,
F. SMITH, Brig. Gen'l.

P. S. I have charged Capt. Barry, of the 52d regiment, with the delivery of this letter, who, I hope, may be permitted to see Gen. Prescott.

To Nicholas Cooke, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Capt. Henry Barry to the Governor of Rhode Island.

————, July 12th, 1777.

Sir:—I having the honor to be charged with dispatches from Brig. Gen. Smith, for you; and having it in command, with your permission, to deliver them myself, I must therefore request the favor of seeing you, and receiving what answer you may be pleased to return. I have the honor to be with respect, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,
HENRY BARRY.

To Nicholas Cooke, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Stephen Hopkins to Capt. Barry.

In Council, July 12, 1777.

Sir:—The Governor is not in town, and it will be some days before he will be here; the gentlemen whom we have sent to negotiate business with you, by cartel, have not been permitted to land in Newport; therefore you will not be suffered to come on shore.

Any letters or messages you are charged with, if you deliver them to Capt. Whipple, they will be duly answered by us. I am, &c.. &c.,
S. HOPKINS, Pres't *pro tem.*

To Capt. Barry.

Capt. Barry to Stephen Hopkins.

On board the Providence,
July 13, 1777.

Sir:—I have received your letter of yesterday, in answer to mine of the same date, and must own I feel myself in some degree disappointed in not being suffered on shore; especially, as to the desire of personally delivering Gen. Smith's letter.

I had a wish to have seen General Prescott, and received any commands of a private and family nature he might consider necessary to give me; and this, I feel assured, is a favor, if any ways proper, you would readily grant to a gentleman of his rank, and in his situation.

I herewith transmit you Brigadier General Smith's letter, and wait for your reply; and then, if not permitted to land, shall immediately proceed to Newport.

I have the honor to be, with respect, sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
HENRY BARRY.

To Stephen Hopkins, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Stephen Hopkins to Capt. Barry.

Providence, July 13th, 1777.

Sir:—Yours, of this date, together with a letter from Gen. Smith, was delivered by Capt. Whipple.

I am sorry that such a line of conduct has been observed, as to make it not admissible for you to come on shore. Lieut. D'Auvergne, from Sir Peter Parker, was permitted to be on shore in Providence, and walk the streets; in return, the gentlemen we sent were stopped by your ships, which is the only reason that prevents the gratification of your request.

Your letter to Gen. Prescott is delivered him, who is now at private lodgings, upon his parole. I am, sir, your humble servant,

ST. HOPKINS.

To Capt. Barry.

Henry Marchant, Delegate in the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Philadelphia, July 13th, 1777.

Honored Sir:—I wrote the Governor and Company by the last post, and enclosed them an order of Congress upon the loan office, state of Rhode Island, &c., for $190,000, which I hope will come to hand.

I now enclose Your Honor the resolves of the marine committee, passed March the 25th, 1777, respecting the contract made by some of the officers of Commodore Hopkins's fleet, when in Delaware River. As the complaints in consequence of that contract, have still continued, notwithstanding those resolves were forwarded long ago to the Continental agents; by order of the marine committee, I sent a copy of them to the agent, Mr. Tillinghast, by the last post, supposing it possible they might have mis carried before. And as I never heard of them, before I left the state, for that reason, I have enclosed them to Your Honor.

Our accounts from the northward are very unfavorable; but at the same time, so confused that no certainty can be collected; yet we are very apprehensive that Ticonderoga is in the hands of the enemy, with all the cannon and stores, if not the garrison. To what causes this misfortune must have arisen, time only can unfold. If the case is so, we are not to despond, but rise with new vigor, and manly fortitude. Let New England now show her prowess, her vigilance and her every virtue. Let us rise at once, as though called into one soul. Let us meet the enemy where their ships cannot avail them; upon equal ground, and by the blessing of Heaven, success, victory and honor might attend us.

Let not the Jersey militia have the only honor of ridding their country of the enemies of mankind, by a united, brave efiort. I only wish New England may maintain that character she hath hitherto entitled herself to.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your Honor's most obedient, humble servant,

HENRY MARCHANT.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor, &c.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Richard Pigot.

Providence, July 28th, 1777.

Sir:—Soon after His Britannic Majesty's troops took possession of Rhode Island, I received a letter from Earl Percy, requesting permission for several ladies to go upon the island; and assuring me, that upon their being allowed that liberty, he would grant the same to all such women and children as should incline to come to their friends upon the main.

In consequence of which, permission hath been granted to every woman who hath applied for leave to go to Rhode Island. Notwithstanding this agreement, I am to inform you, that although repeated applications have been made for many persons, yet none have been suffered for a considerable time past, to come from the island.

I need not observe to you, that women and children are not the proper objects of war; nor that all civilized nations have agreed to lessen the horrors of it as far as possible. Yet, in this instance, I cannot forbear saying, that the commanding officers upon Rhode Island, since Earl Percy, appear to me to have departed from the common dictates of humanity.

I must therefore renew my application, that those women and children who have been so repeatedly asked for, may have leave to join their respective husbands, parents, brethren and friends. For a list of them, I refer you to the letter I have formerly written to your predecessors in command; and I beg leave to add the names of Elizabeth Prescott, widow; and Alice Allen, wife of Joseph Allen.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To General Pigot.

Gen. Pigot to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Newport, Rhode Island, July 30th, 1777.

Sir:—I was favored with your letter of the 28th, and am sorry you have had the trouble of making repeated applications for several women and children (whose husbands, parents and friends have left here,) to have leave to go to the main.

Upon looking over General Prescott's papers, I found a copy of the list you mention, and had ordered a flag to be ready to carry as many of them as chose to go. I will not pretend to say for what reason my predecessors did not immediately comply with your request, and why they thought it necessary to detain those women and children in town, but I will venture to assure you neither of them with any justice can be accused of wanting humanity. Elizabeth Prescott, and the widow Alice Allen shall have permission to go to the main whenever they make application to me.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

RICHARD PIGOT.

To Governor Cooke.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the 18*th day of August*, 1777.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Mrs. Champlin, wife of Wm. Champlin, of Newport, be permitted to go to the island of Conanicut, with her clothing, by way of North Kingstown, under the inspection of the commanding officer upon that post.

Whereas, there was a quantity of sugar taken into possession by this state, and secured in a barn, belonging to the Hon. William Greene, Esq., in the town of Warwick, in the possession of Mr. William Bennett, which was ordered by said state to be for the use of the Continental troops; this Assembly being informed that said barn was last night broken open by some persons unknown, and part of said sugar taken out and carried away,—

It is therefore resolved, that all persons within said state are requested to use their best endeavors to discover the perpetrator of said villainy; and that whosoever shall discover the persons who committed said crime, so that they may be brought to justice, shall be entitled to receive out of the general treasury the sum of £10, lawful money, for every person that shall be convicted of said crime.

Whereas, Capt. Ebenezer Adams represented unto this Assembly, that he lately captured two small arms and accoutrements, on the island of Prudence, belonging to a party of the enemy, who were taken prisoners, and prayed the direction of this Assembly, how to dispose of them; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that this state give up its right

in the said arms and accoutrements to the persons who took the same, to be divided amongst them at the discretion of Capt. Adams.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kent forthwith remove the sugars at the Fulling Mill, the property of this state, to the farm of William Greene, Esq., in Warwick; and that the same be placed with the other sugars heretofore removed to said farm, under a sufficient guard.

It is voted and resolved, that the proceedings of the town council of the town of East Greenwich, respecting the sugar, coffee and rum, taken into custody by the constable of said town, said to be the property of Mr. Robert Stevens, Jr., be stayed until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable William Bradford, and Stephen Hopkins, Esqs., Henry Ward and Paul Mumford, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draft a bill for the better supply of the troops raised by this state, agreeably to the recommendation from the committee lately convened at Springfield, and the former resolutions of this Assembly; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Griffin Greene, paymaster to one of the Continental battalions, be empowered to draw £300, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for paying the troops in said battalion; and that he re-pay the same, whenever he shall have received money for the purpose aforesaid, or on demand.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Daniel Deval be chosen captain; and Mr. David Gifford, lieutenant, of Maj. Munro's company; and that they draw pay from the 10th day of June last, they having been on duty from that time.

It is voted and resolved, that six hogsheads of the sugar at the Fulling Mill, the property of this state, be immediately forwarded to Peekskill, for the use of the troops raised by this state.

That the persons appointed to dispose of the same, be

empowered to exchange said sugars, or a part thereof, for any other articles which may be necessary for the use of the said troops; and that Mr. Matthew Manchester be appointed to procure teams for removing the same, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that Major Munro be, and he is hereby, empowered to enlist eighteen men, in addition to those already enlisted into his company, in the boat service, to serve for the same term, and be entitled to the same bounty, pay and rations, as those who shall enlist into the fifteen months' brigade.

That he enlist the men aforesaid, from any town within this state; and that upon their enlisting and entering the said company, they shall be reckoned to the towns of which they are inhabitants, in the same manner as though they had enlisted into the fifteen months' brigade, and shall be so reckoned towards discharging the militia of such town from present duty.

Whereas, the Honorable Continental Congress of the United States, on the 5th day of July, A. D. 1777, did by their order, drawn upon Joseph Clarke, Esq., commissioner of the loan office, for the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, direct him to pay unto the General Assembly of said state, or their order, $190,000, it being advanced for the use of said state, and the Assembly to be accountable,—

Wherefore resolved, that His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor of this state, be, and he is hereby, empowered and requested to receive the said sum of $190,000, of said Joseph Clarke, Esq., as commisioner of the loan office, within this state, and pay the same unto the general treasurer of this state, taking his receipt therefor.

Whereas, Henry Ward, Esq., presented unto this Assembly, the following report and account, to wit:

Report of Henry Ward, appointed by the General Assembly of Rhode Island, to solicit aid of the State of Massachusetts.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, now sitting:

The subscriber, who was appointed to apply to the General Assembly of Massachusetts Bay for aid, begs leave to report:

That on the 10th day of July he proceeded to Boston, and the General Assembly not being in session, applied to the Council; who, having taken his representation into consideration, passed a resolve for sending, for the defence of this state, two regiments of seven hundred and twenty-eight men each, to continue for six months; and until they should come, for sending one regiment of militia, which he herewith presents.

That being of opinion it was necessary for the then present defence, that a larger aid should be sent from that state, he gave in the memorial, which he also lays before you; and that the Council having deliberated upon the same, assured the subscriber, that they would do every thing in their power to forward the men ordered, with the greatest possible expedition, and give orders to the officers of the militia contiguous to this state, to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning, to the assistance of this state, in case of an attack.

He begs leave to submit this report, and is, with all respect,—

Your Honors' most obedient, humble servant,

HENRY WARD.

August 19, 1777.

It is voted and resolved, that Sarah Greene, Jemima Howland and Sarah Remington, be permitted to return to the town of Jamestown; and Priscilla Rogers and Susannah Gardner, to the island of Rhode Island, under the inspection and direction of the commanding officer of the second regiment of militia of the county of Kings; and they are permitted to carry with them their necessary apparel.

It is voted and resolved, that the bounty and encouragement allowed to the non-commissioned officers and privates, who should enlist into the fifteen months' brigade, or boat service, be not allowed to any who shall enlist into said brigade, or boat service, from and after the expiration of eighteen days after the rising of this Assembly; and that a copy hereof, be transmitted to the several colonels in said brigade.

It is voted and resolved, that the wages due to the fifteen months' brigade, until the 10th day of August inst., be paid them by the committees of safety within this state.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the act entitled "An act to prevent monopoly and oppression, by excessive and unreasonable prices, for many of the necessaries and conveniences of life; and for preventing engrossers, and for the better supply of our troops in the army with such necessaries as may be wanted;" and another act passed at May second session last, laying an embargo upon rum, sugar, molasses and other articles therein enumerated, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Whereas, the Honorable the Continental Congress have drawn an order in favor of this state, on the commissioner of the loan office, within the same, for $190,000; and whereas, there is not money sufficient in said office for discharging said order, and certificates are wanted for procuring the same,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to make application to our delegate in Congress, that certificates may be forwarded as soon as may be.

Whereas, several towns within this state, have neglected to apportion the tax assessed upon the inhabitants of said state, in March last,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that said towns be empowered to apportion the same, and return a copy of the lists thereof, to the general treasurer; who is hereby empowered and directed to issue his warrants to the collectors of the said towns, in the same manner as though said tax had been apportioned, and a list of the same had been made out and returned, within the time limited by law.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Jacob Goff be, and he is hereby, empowered to purchase in behalf of this state, a lot of land, at a proper distance from the powder mill, and take a deed of the same to the general treasurer, for the use of this state.

That he build a house thereon, suitable for his family, at the expense of the state,

That Caleb Harris, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to assist to superintend the business, and get it done in the cheapest and best manner he can; and that the cost of the said house and lot of land do not exceed the sum of £200, lawful money; which sum the said Jacob is empowered to draw out of the general treasury, for the purpose aforesaid.

Whereas, Lieutenant Colonel William Barton, with a number of officers and soldiers under his command, lately made an expedition to the island of Rhode Island, and in the most prudent and gallant manner happily made prisoners of, and brought off, Major General Prescott, his aid-de-camp, who was of the rank of major, and a private soldier; and whereas, this Assembly, at their session in March last, as an encouragement for an expedition on Rhode Island, offered rewards for the captures of officers and soldiers, who should be made prisoners in said expedition, provided, the same should be made in a limited time, which is expired, by which act the rewards for the taking such prisoners, would amount to $1,120; and this Assembly being desirous at all times of rewarding distinguished merit,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said sum of $1,120 be allowed and paid out of the general treasury into hands of the said William Barton, to be divided between him and the other commissioned and non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the said party, in proportion to the wages of the said officers and soldiers.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the thanks of this Assembly be, and they hereby are, given to the said Col. Barton, and to the other officers and soldiers of the said party, for their brave execution of that enterprize.

And it is further voted and resolved, that this Assembly will recommend the said Col. Barton, and the other commissioned officers of the said party, to the notice of His Excellency General Washington, for promotion, according to their merit.

It is voted and resolved, that the delegates appointed, or

who may be appointed, to represent this state in Congress, be, and they or either of them are hereby, empowered to represent said state in Congress, until they, or either of them, shall have due notice of their re-election; or until the delegates who may be appointed in their room, shall take their seats in Congress; the act directing the election of said delegates for one year, to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Clark Brown be, and he is hereby, permitted to subscribe the test, heretofore ordered to be subscribed by the inhabitants of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Wall be, and he is hereby, chosen ensign of Captain Phillips's company, in the brigade raised by this state, for fifteen months, in the room of Reuben Herrington, who has refused.

It is voted and resolved, that if any person within this state, not having hitherto subscribed the test or declaration heretofore prescribed by an act of this Assembly, at the session held at Newport, in June, 1776, shall within thirty days after the rising of this Assembly subscribe the same, before the Governor, Deputy Governor, an assistant or judge of the superior or inferior court, or in open town meeting, such person shall be restored to all his liberties, privileges, franchises and immunities; and shall as fully enjoy the same, as though he had subscribed the said test or declaration in due season; and that no person, after the expiration of said thirty days, shall be admitted to subscribe the same, without special permission first had from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Sylvester Gardner and Stephen Champlin be, and they are hereby, permitted to remove the hay belonging to them, and now stacked at the extreme part of Point Judith, to places of safety.

It is voted and resolved, that the Continental officers and soldiers, raised by this state, be supplied in camp with rum, sugar and coffee, at the prices affixed to those articles in the act against monopoly and oppression, passed by this Assembly, at the second session, held in December last, with the

additional charge of transportation; and that the council of war, appointed to act in the recess of the General Assembly, provide and send forward the same to the paymasters of the two battalions, who are hereby directed to deliver out the same at the rates aforesaid; and to deduct the amount of what each person shall receive out of his pay.

It is further voted and resolved, that the committee of safety procure, as soon as possible, and upon the best terms they can, the articles herein after mentioned, for the use of the soldiers raised by this state, that is to say:

The Hon. Wm. Bradford, Esq., shall procure seventy pair of shoes, one hundred and forty pair of stockings, one hundred and forty shirts, thirty-five coats, thirty-five pair of breeches and thirty-five hats.

John Smith, Esq., and Col. Daniel Tillinghast, shall procure four hundred and eighty-two pair of shoes, nine hundred and sixty-four pair of stockings, nine hundred and sixty-four shirts, two hundred and forty-one coats, two hundred and forty-one pair of breeches, and two hundred and forty-one hats.

Col. John Cooke shall procure eighty-eight pair of shoes, one hundred and seventy-six pair of stockings, one hundred and seventy-six shirts, forty-four coats, forty-four pair of breeches, and forty-four hats.

John Northup and James Congdon, 3d, Esqs., shall procure three hundred and thirty-four pair of shoes, six hundred and sixty-eight pair of stockings, six hundred and sixty-eight shirts, one hundred sixty-seven coats, one hundred and sixty-seven pair of breeches, and one hundred and sixty-seven hats.

Stephen Mumford, Esq., shall procure two hundred and twenty-seven pair of shoes, four hundred and fifty-four pair of stockings, four hundred and fifty-four shirts, one hundred and thirteen coats, one hundred and thirteen pair of breeches, and one hundred and thirteen hats.

That one-half part of the said articles be appropriated for the use of the two Continental battalions, and be sent for-

ward as soon as may be, under the direction of the said council of war; and that the other half be appropriated to the use of the brigade raised by this state for fifteen months, and be delivered out by the committee of safety, to those persons who shall be most in want thereof.

It is further voted and resolved, that the families of the field, commissioned and staff officers, as well those belonging to the said brigade, as to the said Continental battalions, who are resident in this state, be supplied with such necessary articles as are enumerated in the said act against monopoly and oppression, if to be procured at the rates in the said act affixed, with the charge of transportation, to the amount of one-quarter part of their wages; they lodging money to procure the same.

That the families of the non-commissioned officers and privates shall be supplied in like manner, to the amount of their wages.

That the town council of each town in this state be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to appoint a suitable person to supply the said officers and soldiers, as aforesaid, in their respective towns; who shall be allowed two-and-a-half per cent. for doing the business, to be paid out of the general treasury.

That the persons so appointed, procure the articles for the purposes, aforesaid, upon the best terms they can; and that the difference between the prices at which the said articles shall be purchased and delivered, be paid out of the general treasury.

And it is further voted and resolved, that these resolutions shall not revoke the appointment of John Reynolds, Esq., to purchase clothing for the soldiers: but that he continue to procure as large a quantity as may be, upon the best terms he can.

Resolved, that it be, and hereby is, earnestly recommended to all the farmers and others within this state, who have raised flax the present season, that they be careful to preserve all the seed thereof, as in all probability it will soon

become an essential article for exportation; and that this resolve be published three weeks successively in the Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £32,000, be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, to be levied, collected and paid into the general treasury, by the 1st day of December next.

That the same be proportioned agreeably to the estimate upon which the last tax was proportioned.

That the poll tax be sixpence for every £1,000; and that the standing committee proportion the same, and draught a bill accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the row-galley Washington be rigged as a schooner; and that Mr. John Smith and Daniel Tillinghast, Esq., furnish rigging and sails necessary for that purpose.

Whereas, our relentless enemies have possessed themselves of the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown, whereby the freemen of those towns are deprived of the privilege of meeting at their usual places for the choice of deputies to represent them in General Assembly,—

It is therefore resolved, that those persons who were known to be freemen in either of those towns, to the number of seven, at the least, from each town respectively, be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to meet at the places hereafter mentioned, to wit:

Those of the town of Newport, at the state house, in Providence.

Those of Portsmouth and Middletown, at the house of William Durfee, in Tiverton.

Those of Jamestown, at the house of Matthew Allen, in North Kingstown, on the third Wednesday of September next, at ten o'clock, in the forenoon, for the purpose aforesaid; they conducting such choice agreeably to the usages and practices in their respective towns, heretofore; and that this resolve be published in the next Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable William Bradford, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury; and that he account for the same, as one of the committee of safety, for this state.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £1,500, lawful money, out of the general treasury; and that he account for the same, as one of the committee of safety.

Whereas, this Assembly, at the session held in April last, in commiseration of the unhappy condition of the inhabitants of the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, Jamestown and Middletown, who had left the said towns and taken refuge upon the main, in this state, passed an act that they should not be taxed for their personal estate; and whereas, it appears that many of the said inhabitants are possessed of considerable personal estate; and as all persons who derive protection from the state, ought to pay their just proportion of the public expenses,—

It therefore voted and resolved, that the said act be, and hereby is, repealed; and that the inhabitants of the said towns shall be assessed in the several towns where they respectively reside, for their polls and estates (excepting for such parts of their estates as are in possession of the enemy), in the same manner and proportion as the other inhabitants of the said towns where they reside, are assessed.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings, dispose of the old court house in Kings county, on the fourth Wednesday of September next; and that he advertise the same, in the Providence Gazette; and the general treasurer is hereby empowered and directed to give a warranty deed to the purchaser thereof, in behalf of this state.

Whereas, this state is now blockaded by a considerable naval and land force, and thereby deprived of the advantages of importing grain of the several kinds necessary for the consumption of its inhabitants, whereby they are under

the necessity of procuring large supplies from the neighboring states of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, for their support; and whereas, great scarcity of those articles may be occasioned by distilling the same into spirituous liquors,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, immediately after the rising of this Assembly, write to the Assemblies of the states, aforesaid, enclosing to them a copy of an act of this state, passed at the present session, entitled "An act to prevent the distilling, into any kind of spirit whatever, wheat, Indian corn, rye, barley, oats or cider;" and recommending to them the passing such act or acts similar thereto, as may prevent any difficulty in the supplying this state with those necessary articles; and that the act aforesaid, be published in the next Providence Gazette.

Whereas, a number of officers, belonging to the brigade raised by this state, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly that, for the safety of the states of America in general, and of this in particular, with the encouragement held out by their constituents, they entered into the service.

That they engaged that the encouragement made to the soldiers should be fulfilled; who in consequence thereof, and from a principle of freedom, and for the public preservation, cheerfully entered into the service.

That, to their great mortification, they find themselves obliged humbly to remonstrate to this Assembly the situation of the brigade.

That the soldiers in general are very poorly provided with clothing, so that their appearance on the parade is rather miserable than formidable; and in consequence thereof, they cannot exact from them such duties as the service naturally requires.

That in consequence of the deficiency of camp equipage, they are not prepared either for attack or defence.

That amidst the whole, the rapid augmentation of the

prices of every necessary article of life, fills them with the greatest anxiety for themselve and their families, who depend chiefly on their wages for support; and that the soldiers expected to have enjoyed the same benefits as those in the Continental army, who are now plentifully supplied with clothing and other necessaries, which they are suffering for the want of; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to seriously consider the matters which are here recited, and in commiseration to the brigade, to rectify those real evils which lie so heavily upon them; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be received; and that this Assembly will take the most effectual and speedy measures for procuring and furnishing the said officers and soldiers with the articles requested, agreeably to the prayer of the said petition.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Timothy Coffin be, and he is hereby, directed to proceed to Bedford, and there take out of the sloop Diamond, of which he is master, two hundred barrels of turpentine, and lodge the same in some convenient place.

That he proceed with the said sloop to Acoxet, and unlade the remainder of the cargo, and store the same in safe places.

That Col. Pardon Gray be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to take the said sloop and remainder of the cargo into his care.

That he endeavor to procure a cargo of flax-seed, for her to make a voyage to Europe; and that Mr. Thomas Stevens, Jr., be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to sell, upon the best terms he can for the state, the said two hundred barrels of turpentine, ordered to be landed at Bedford; and pay the amount thereof, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the families of the officers in the Continental battalions, and fifteen months' brigade raised by this state, be furnished with such necessary arti-

cles as are enumerated in the act to prevent monopoly and oppression, at the prices affixed in said act, to the amount of one-quarter part of their wages, upon their lodging money sufficient for said purpose in the hands of the committees appointed to supply the families of soldiers.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war be, and they are hereby, directed upon the application of the persons appointed by the town council in the several towns within this state, for the purpose of supplying the families of the officers and soldiers in their respective towns, and producing a certificate from the town clerk of their respective towns, of the number to be supplied, agreeably to an act of this state, to give orders on the general treasurer for such sum or sums of money as they think necessary to make such provision.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith sell, for the most he can get, a quantity of cheese in his hands belonging to this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury; and that he account for the same, as one of the committee of safety.

It is voted and resolved, that any two persons within this state, subject by law to bear arms, who shall procure one good, able-bodied recruit to enter the Continental service for the term of three years, or during the present war, shall be exempted from actual service, saving in cases of general alarm, during the time for which such recruit shall enlist; and every such recruit shall be entitled to the Continental bounty and other Continental allowances.

Provided always, that no person or persons shall be exempted as aforesaid, until such recruits by them respectively procured, shall have passed muster, agreeably to the regulations for raising the Continental army.

In pursuance of a resolve of the Honorable the Continental Congress,—

It is voted and resolved, that proper persons be appointed

in each town, within this state, to recruit men to fill up the Continental battalions raising within this state.

That the persons appointed, give good security to the town treasurers of their respective towns, for the faithful discharge of their duty, and rendering just accounts of all public moneys that shall come to their hands; and that they be allowed for each able-bodied recruit, by them raised, who shall enlist for three years or during the war, the sum of $8, in full for their trouble and expense.

It is further voted and resolved, that the following persons be appointed for the several towns, for the purpose aforesaid, to wit:

Persons appointed as Recruiting Officers, to Recruit Men to Fill up the Battalion Raising within the State.

Newport—Messrs. Henry Dayton and Philip Morse.

Providence—Messrs. Joseph Hoyle and John Beverly.

Warwick—Messrs. Robert Rhodes and Waterman Tibbets.

Westerly—Capt. Job Pemberton.

North Kingstown—Mr. Peter Wright and Major Sylvester Gardner.

South Kingstown—Col. Thomas Potter and Capt. Samuel Potter.

East Greenwich—Col. Richard Fry and William Peirce, Esq., and Major Thomas Tillinghast.

Jamestown—Benjamin Underwood, Esq.

Smithfield—Messrs. John Angell and Peleg Arnold.

Scituate—Timothy Hopkins, Esq.; and Messrs. Stephen Kimball, Stephen Sheldon and Jonathan Knight, Jr.

Glocester—Captain Asa Kimball and Mr. Nathaniel Blackmar.

Charlestown—Capt. Joseph Congdon.

Coventry—Messrs. William Love, David Brayton and Capt. Thomas Gorton.

West Greenwich—Capt. Joseph Hopkins.

Exeter—Mr. Stephen Wightman and Captain Samuel Gorton.

Bristol—Mr. William Throop.

Tiverton—Col. John Cooke.

Little Compton—Mr. Nathaniel Church.

Warren—Col. Nathan Miller.

Cumberland—Col. George Peck and Mr. Enoch Tower.

Richmond—Capt. Richard Bailey, Jr., and Mr. Jonathan Maxson.

Cranston—Mr. Randall Briggs.

Hopkinton—Capt. Thomas Wells.

Johnston—Colonel John Waterman and Mr. Richard Eddy.

North Providence—Capt. Thomas Olney.

Barrington—Major Peleg Heath.

And it is further voted and resolved, that said persons be empowered to take up and secure all deserters who shall come within their respective districts, and the officers of the militia are directed to give them such assistance as shall be required; and for every deserter so taken up and secured, that $5 be allowed to the person by whom he shall be apprehended.

And it is further voted and resolved, that for the encouragement of men to enter into said service, they shall be at liberty at the time of their enlistments, to make choice of the battalion or company in which they will serve, provided said battalion or company is not full; if it is, they may choose any other battalion or company; which shall be entered against their names, and returned to the officer appointed to receive said recruits; who shall, at the same time they are sent to join their corps, transmit the same to the general or commanding officer.

And it is further voted and resolved, that if any of the persons appointed by this resolve, shall not accept their appointment, that the deputies of said towns be, and they are

hereby, empowered to appoint others in their room; and that a copy hereof, be transmitted to the several town clerks within this state, within ten days after the rising of this Assembly.

An Act assessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £32,-000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state.

[See printed Schedule.]

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Henry Ward, for his expenses to Boston, and for his time	10	00	00
Benjamin Greene, for hay, provisions, wood and liquors for the use of the troops on Warwick Neck	27	17	04
Benjamin Greene, for wood taken at divers times from his wood lot, and for cutting and carting the same, by order of Col. John Waterman	64	02	02
Jeremiah Utter, for a horse impressed for the artillery	12	00	00
Edward Wells, for repairs on the state's guns	27	14	04
Jonathan Pierce, for sundry tools lost upon Rhode Island, at the time it was taken possession of by the British	22	03	04
Stephen Hopkins, for his time, his servant, two horses and a carriage; and for his expenses to and from Springfield, to meet the commissioners from the other New England states	23	12	00
Paul Mumford, for the same	18	00	10
William Bradford, for the same	21	03	10
Stephen Hopkins, William Bradford and Henry Ward, for their services and expenses in attending the convention of the New England states, held at Providence, in December, 1776; and January, 1777	13	10	00
Lieut. Thomas Hughes, a wounded officer, for board and expenses	17	12	00

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on Monday, the 22d day of September, 1777.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, permission hath been granted by the council of war, to Dinah Remington to proceed in a flag of truce to the island of Jamestown, under the direction of Colonel Dyer,—

It is voted and resolved, that said flag be for the present detained; and that Col. Dyer do not dispatch the same until further orders from this Assembly; or, in the recess thereof, from the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of Kings county sell and dispose of the old court house, in the said county, this day, at public vendue, to the highest bidder; that he give a bill of sale thereof, to the purchaser; who is to remove the same off the lot whereon it stands, within six months from the date; and not to improve it where it now stands; and that the sheriff do not sell or dispose of the said lot of land; any thing to the contrary hereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is hereby enacted, that when and as often as it happens that the sheriff of any county within this state, who is to execute any writ or process from the maritime court, is any wise interested in the effect of such writ or process, that it shall, and may, be lawful for the judge of the said maritime court, and he is hereby directed to issue all such writs and processes to any or either of the town sergeants in any of the towns within the county where such

sheriff who is interested, resides; and the said town sergeants are hereby fully empowered, authorized and directed, to execute the same, to all intents and purposes, as fully and effectually as the sheriff might, ought or could do, if he was not interested in said process.

It is voted and resolved, that the persons appointed to deliver the salt, heretofore proportioned to the several towns within this state, forthwith pay the amount of the salt by them respectively delivered, into the general treasury; and all persons who have received money out of the treasury, either for purchasing of guns, or enlisting of men into the Continental battalions or fifteen months' service, are hereby required to render an account thereof, to the council of war; and if any person shall neglect to pay said money, or render an account of the money by them received for the purposes aforesaid, for the space of thirty days next from the rising of this Assembly, the attorney general is directed to commence actions against such delinquents, to the first court authorized to hear and determine the same; and that this resolve be published in the next Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the several collectors of rates in this state be, and they are hereby, directed to receive Continental bills, as well as bills of this state, for the taxes already ordered to be levied; that the general treasurer exchange all such Continental bills as shall be paid into the general treasury, for the bills of this state, as often as he hath opportunity; and that a copy of this vote be inserted in the Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the colonels or other field officers, commanding in the counties of Kings and Kent, forthwith call forth as many of the militia and alarm men, in addition to those already doing duty, as they shall judge proper; in order that such suitable guards be placed upon the shores, in said counties, as will prevent any persons going upon any of the islands in possession of the enemy,

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Henry Ward, William Channing, Jonathan Arnold and Rowse J. Helme, Esqs., be a committee, they, or the major part of them, to form a plan of government for this state, and lay the same before this Assembly as soon as conveniently may be.

Whereas, Capt. Samuel Carr, Benjamin Underwood and Christopher Ellery, Esqs., in behalf of themselves, and many of the late inhabitants of the towns of Jamestown, Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown and New Shoreham, preferred a petition and represented unto this Assembly, that in the beginning of this unnatural, cruel war between Great Britain and the colonies, they, with many of the inhabitants of said towns, impressed with sentiments of duty and affection for their country, and paying due obedience to the several resolves of the state, at great trouble and expense transported themselves, and such part of their property as escaped the destruction of the enemy (the real excepted), to the main; where they lived on a part of the small substance brought with them; some almost one, and others more than two years.

That before, and at the time, they, and their constituents, removed to the main, when they were in a capacity of paying, by having the improvement of their real as well as personal estates, there were no taxes levied on them; since which time, the enemy has taken full possession of them, thereby rendering them unable to pay the taxes now levied, or about to be levied on them, and their constituents, the inhabitants of said towns; many of whom, are now in great want of some of the real necessaries of life.

That since they left their habitations, and by order of the General Assembly removed to the main, they have, with the greatest alacrity, done every thing in their power to obstruct and defeat the measures of the enemy.

They have taken their monthly, and other rounds of duty, to guard and defend the shores, equally with the rest

of the inhabitants; and have furnished their quotas of the Continental and fifteen months' battalions. And that notwithstanding they have been excluded their proportions of flour and iron, and when the same was sent into the towns to be divided, it was done in such manner, in some towns, as utterly excluded any of the inhabitants of the islands from any part thereof; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to take the same into consideration, and exempt them from paying any tax for their persons or personal property, until they can remove back and improve their real estates in safety; or otherwise, if they should be held to pay any tax for their personal estates, that they have credit given them for the tax so paid, as part of the proportion of the town to which they respectively belong; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that all the late inhabitants who have removed from the towns of Jamestown, Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown and New Shoreham, to the main, be not rated in any rate or tax in this state, for their persons or personal estates, the stock excepted; and that if any of the inhabitants of said towns be already rated in any town, which rates are not as yet collected, that the same be remitted to the persons so rated.

Resolved, that one-half of the militia, alarm, independent, and artillery companies, be drafted from the militia, alarm, independent and artillery companies, within this state, on the 27th day of September inst.

That they march to, and rendezvous at, such place or places as shall be directed by the Honorable Major General Spencer, on the 1st day of October next; and that they remain and continue to do duty for the space of one month from the said 1st day of October, unless sooner discharged by General Spencer; any resolve to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

And the colonels, or in their absence, the next commanding officer of the several regiments of militia, and commanders of said companies, are directed to call together by

companies their respective regiments and companies, on Saturday, the said 27th day of September, at such place as shall be appointed by them, and may be most convenient for the said regiments and companies; and that they cause said draft then to be made; and that the persons who shall be drafted as aforesaid, be duly equipped with arms and accoutrements, according to law.

It is further resolved, that said one-half of the militia, alarm, independent and artillery companies, who shall be drafted as aforesaid, be formed into one brigade, to consist of six regiments; each regiment to be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, and one major; and to consist of eight companies; each company to be led by one captain, one lieutenant, and one ensign.

That said brigade, regiments and companies, be formed under the direction of the Honorable Major General Spencer; and Ezekiel Cornell, Esq., is hereby appointed brigadier general to command the same.

Provided nevertheless, and it is further resolved, that General Spencer be empowered to form said men, who shall be drafted as aforesaid, into two brigades, if he should think it necessary, and most for the public service; and in that case, that one of the said brigades be commanded by the said Ezekiel Cornell; and that the other brigade be commanded by an officer who shall be appointed by the council of war, by and with the advice of General Spencer; and the council of war are empowered to appoint the other proper officers to said brigade, who shall be entitled to the same pay and rations as officers of the same rank in the Continental service.

And for the encouragement of the persons who shall be drafted as aforesaid, to exert themselves in defence of their country,—

It is further resolved, that each non-commissioned officer and private who shall be drafted as aforesaid, and shall do their tour of duty, shall be allowed, as a bounty, forty shillings, lawful money, for one month's service, and in the

same proportion for a shorter time; and the same wages and rations as are allowed the non-commissioned officers and privates in the Continental service.

And it is further resolved, that the town council, or any one of them, of the several towns within this state, in which a commissary doth not reside, furnish the men drafted within their respective towns, with three days' provisions; and that they forward to the place of their rendezvous, the camp utensils necessary for their use.

It is further resolved, that if any person who shall be drafted as aforesaid, shall appear not duly equipped, that the commanding officer of the company to which he belongs, be empowered to impress a gun, or whatever accoutrements he may stand in need of.

It is further resolved, that if any colonel of said regiments, or commanders of said companies, shall neglect to call together said regiments or companies, or to cause said draft to be made, agreeably to this resolve; or if any officer, to whom a warrant shall be directed for the purpose aforesaid, shall neglect to do his duty, every such delinquent officer shall pay as a fine, to the use of this state, the sum of £50, lawful money; and if any person who shall be drafted as aforesaid, shall neglect to do duty, agreeably to this resolve, or to hire a man to do his tour of duty, the town council of the town in which such person resides, are empowered to hire a man in the room of such delinquent person, and to provide in manner as is directed by an act for the relief of tender consciences.

And it is further resolved, that if by any means said regiments and companies cannot be called together, and said draft made, on the said 27th day of September, that in that case, said regiments and companies be called together, and said draft be made, on the 28th day of September inst.

And it is further resolved, that the field officers of the several regiments of militia, and commanders of the several independent, alarm and artillery companies, repair to the town of Providence, on Monday, the 29th day of September

inst., then and there to receive the orders of the council of war, or General Spencer.

It is further resolved, that copies hereof, be forthwith transmitted to the colonels of the several regiments of militia, and commanders of independent, alarm and artillery companies, within this state.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Edward Welles, for cleaning small arms belonging to the state	15	08	0
Benjamin Arnold, for collecting and delivering to the committee of safety the town of Warwick's proportion of blankets	2	08	0
Dr. Robert Perigo, for medicines furnished Col. Stanton's regiment	1	14	6
Josias Lyndon, for his services as clerk of the lower house	2	08	9
Ebenezer Tefft, for cleaning and sweeping the state house in Kings county, and for his attendance on the General Assembly	1	01	0
John Northup, one of the committee of safety, authorized to draw from the general treasury	500	00	0

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on Monday, the 27th day of October, 1777.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Ebenezer Slocum, who was committed to jail in the county of Providence, as a dangerous and suspected person, be liberated therefrom.

That he procure sureties to the satisfaction of either of the judges of the superior court of judicature, &c., to be recognized with him; the condition of which recognizance shall be for his good behaviour.

That he shall hold no correspondence with the enemy;

and in general to demean himself as a good and faithful subject of the United States of America; and that the said Ebenezer be, and remain, in the custody of the sheriff for the county of Kings, until he shall procure sureties, and recognize, as aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that Colonel Jabez Bowen be appointed to wait on Maj. Gen. Spencer, and request of him a return of the number of men belonging to this state, who assembled on the late expedition; and also the number of men now in service within this state, and when the time for which they enlisted will expire.

Whereas, Beriah Brown, Esq., presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

Report of Beriah Brown, Sheriff of Kings County, relative to the sale of the Court House on Little Rest Hill, South Kingstown.

"In obedience to the vote of the General Assembly, I did, on the 24th day of September, A. D. 1777, sell the old court house, on Little Rest Hill, in South Kingstown, at public vendue, to Mr. Silas Niles, who was the highest bidder, for $260; and have paid said sum to the general treasurer, and have taken his receipt for the same.

BERIAH BROWN, Sheriff.

October 30, 1777."

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathan Barber be permitted to subscribe the test or declaration, ordered to be subscribed by the inhabitants of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Beriah Brown, Esq., sheriff of the county of Kings, be, and he is hereby, directed to sell the personal estate now in his possession, lately belonging to Charles Slocum, deceased, at a public vendue, within forty days after the rising of this Assembly; and that he

pay the money arising from the sale thereof, into the general treasury.

Provided nevertheless, that if any person who shall by law, be entitled to administer on the said estate, shall, within thirty days from the rising of this Assembly, appear and take out letters of administration on the same, in such case the said sheriff is directed to deliver two-third parts of the said estate to such administrator, and take his receipt for the same; and dispose of the remaining third part at public vendue at the time afore mentioned; and pay the amount of the sale thereof, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that John Sayles, Ebenezer Thompson, Esek Hopkins, Job Randall and Gideon Comstock, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to inquire into the causes of the miscarriage of the late expedition against the island of Rhode Island; that Rowse J. Helme, Esq., attend as their clerk.

That they make application to Major General Spencer for information respecting the same; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

Whereas, Capt. Thomas Hughes laid before this Assembly a memorandum of sundry articles of clothing, wanted for the soldiers in Col. Greene's and Col. Angell's battalions; which being considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Thomas Hughes have an order on Daniel Tillinghast, Esq., for the said clothing, agreeably to his memorandum.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. Stephen Hopkins and Henry Ward, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to confer with Major General Spencer, respecting the best method of supplying the troops now in service within this state; and that they request General Spencer to take the prisoners of war now in jail, under his care and direction.

It is voted and resolved, that the field officers of the several regiments of militia, in the late expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island, be empowered and directed to call

courts martial for the trial of deserters from the said regiments.

That they pass and execute sentence agreeably to the articles of war established by Congress, and adopted by this state, in the same manner as though the said courts had been convened and sentence passed before the time of their service expired.

It is voted and resolved, that Peter Phillips, Esq., be, and he is hereby, permitted to draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £600, lawful money, towards paying the charges of carting stores for the late expedition designed against the enemy on Rhode Island; which sum he is to account for to this state.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly by the deputy quartermaster general, by order of Gen. Spencer, that such hath been the rise of every article with which the soldiers within this state are furnished, that it is impossible to procure the same at the price as heretofore fixed by this Assembly, without impressing the said articles, in which way the same has been supplied for some time past,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Maj. Gen. Spencer be requested to give orders for purchasing such necessary articles as the army within this state may require, at the most reasonable prices at which they may be procured; and if any deduction shall be made in the accounts of articles so furnished, this state will pay any sum that shall be so deducted.

It is voted and resolved, that Joseph Underwood, Mary Underwood, Abigail Holloway, Polly Holloway, Dorcas Easton, Catharine M'Kinzie, Mary Fowler, Sarah Greene, Hannah Weeden, Hannah Weeden, Jr., Peleg Weeden, Phœbe Weeden, Damaris Weeden, Mrs. Grozart and her two children, Sarah Sweet, daughter of Samuel Sweet, and Elizabeth Thurston, be permitted to go in a flag of truce from North Kingstown to the island of Conannicut, under the care of the commanding officer in the town of North Kingstown, with their wearing apparel.

That Joseph Underwood and Sarah Greene be permitted to carry each two beds, with the necessary bed clothes.

That the asid flag do not proceed until ten days after the rising of this Assembly; and that the same be transacted without any expense to the state.

Whereas, Mrs. Isabel Marchant, late of Newport, now of Hopkinton, widow, preferred a petition and represented unto this Assembly, that some time since she lent the general treasurer a sum of money, to supply the necessities of government upon a very pressing occasion; and that she hath now an opportunity of making use of the same, to her advantage; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly, that the general treasurer might be directed to pay her the said sum, by her lent, with the interest due thereon; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that John Sayles, Ebenezer Thompson, Esek Hopkins, Job Randall and Gideon Comstock, Esqs., they, or any three of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to meet with the committees (if any shall be appointed by the states of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut,) to inquire into the grounds and reasons of the miscarriage of the late expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island.

Whereas, by a resolve of this Assembly, passed at the last session, the persons who had received the salt proportioned to the several towns, were required to pay the amount thereof the treasury; and all persons who had received money, into either for purchasing of guns, or enlisting of men into the Continental battalions or fifteen months' regiments, were required to render an account thereof, to the council of war within thirty days; and it having been represented to this Assembly, that said time was insufficient for the purpose aforesaid,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that a further time of thirty days, from the 1st day of November inst., be allowed,

for the purpose aforesaid; and if any person shall neglect within said time, to pay said money for said salt, or for iron and flour, which have been proportioned and received by them, in behalf of their respective towns; or render an account of the money by him received as aforesaid, to the council of war, and pay the balance in his hands (if any,) into the treasury, the attorney general is directed to commence an action against such delinquent to the first court proper to try the same.

And it is further voted and resolved, that this act be published in the next Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the whole and every part and parcel of the bills of public credit emitted by this state, and not on interest (small change less than a dollar, only excepted), shall be called in, and sunk by a tax or taxes, to be assessed upon the polls and estates, both real and personal, within this state; and to be paid into the general treasury, on or before the 1st day of November, 1778.

Whereas, owing to divers causes, it hath happened that several town councils in this state have not yet collected the moneys due from their several delinquents, who were draughted to do duty in the late intended expedition against the enemy, on Rhode Island, and in whose stead they hired persons,—

It is voted and resolved, that the several town councils in this state, be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to collect the sums due from the delinquents, and to issue warrants of distraint against them, agreeably to the act of the General Assembly, for draughting men for the said expedition, and to the order of the council of war, of the 29th of September last, respecting the said expedition; and that such warrants of distraint shall be returnable in twenty days after the issuing thereof, and be as valid, to all intents and purposes, and be executed in the same manner, as though they had been issued and executed within the time prescribed by the said act.

It is voted and resolved, that Major General Spencer be,

and he is hereby, requested to make application to His Excellency Gov. Trumbull, for permission to retain the regiment under the command of Col. Ely, within this state, until the quota of troops to be furnished by the state of Connecticut shall arrive; and that he be requested to detain the said regiment until he can receive an answer from His Excellency.

It is voted and resolved, that one thousand pair of good yarn stockings be furnished by the several towns within this state, for the use of the soldiers, agreeably to the following apportionment, to wit:

Proportion of Yarn Stockings to be furnished by the several Towns, for the use of the Soldiers.

	Pair.		Pair.
Providence -	136	Bristol, - -	28
Warwick - -	60	Tiverton, - -	44
Westerly -	36	Little Compton,	40
North Kingstown, -	56	Warren, - -	12
South Kingstown,	108	Cumberlann,	28
East Greenwich, -	32	Richmond, - -	24
Smithfield, -	64	Cranston, -	44
Scituate, - -	48	Hopkinton, - -	32
Glocester, -	40	Johnston, -	29
Charlestowd, -	28	North Providence,	20
West Greenwich,	24	Barrington, -	16
Coventry, - -	28		
Exeter, -	32		1,000

And it is further voted and resolved, that the collectors of taxes within this state be, and they are hereby, appointed to purchase said stockings, proportioned to their respective towns, upon the best terms they can be procured; and that they purchase and deliver the same to either of the committees of safety within this state, by the 1st day of December next; and if the same cannot be purchased upon

reasonable terms, the said collectors are empowered to impress the said stockings, and allow a reasonable price for the same; and the said collectors are directed to exhibit their accounts to the council of war, for adjustment.

It is further voted and resolved, that copies hereof, be immediately transmitted to the several collectors of taxes within this state.

Whereas, by a resolve of this Assembly, the families of officers, to the amount of one-quarter part of their wages, and the families of soldiers to the amount of their wages, should be furnished with such necessary articles as are enumerated in the act to prevent monopoly and oppression, at the prices affixed in said act; and the town councils of the several towns within this state were directed to appoint persons within their respective towns to purchase and furnish the said families with the necessaries aforesaid; and whereas, the town councils of some of the said towns have neglected to appoint persons for the purpose aforesaid; and in some of the towns, the persons who have been appointed, have neglected to execute the trust reposed in them,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that if any town council shall neglect to appoint persons for the purpose aforesaid, within fifteen days after the rising of this Assembly, they shall pay as a fine each member thereof, £6 lawful money, to and for the use of this state.

And if any person who shall be so appointed, shall refuse or neglect to accept and do the duty thereof, he shall pay as a fine, to and for the use of this state, £15, lawful money; which fines are to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within this state.

And it is further voted and resolved, that upon a certificate being produced from the town clerk of the respective towns, of the families, and the numbers of which they consist, to be supplied, agreeably to said resolve, to the council of war, the said council are hereby empowered to order the persons who shall be appointed as aforesaid, such sums of

money as shall be necessary for furnishing said families, agreeably to the intent and meaning of said resolve.

And it is further voted and resolved, that a copy hereof be immediately transmitted to the several town councils within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the Colonels Elliott, Stanton and Crary, make immediate retnrns to the council of war of all clothing which they have received, and of the deficiency of clothing due to their regiments.

And that the Colonels Stanton and Crary receive each immediately of the committees of safety, or of Capt. Paul Allen, one hundred pair of shoes, one hundred pair of stockings, fifty pair of breeches, fifty shirts, fifty coats and seventy-two hats, to be distributed to their men, for supplying their present necessities.

It is voted and resolved, that Rowse J. Helme, Esq., be allowed eighteen shillings for each day's attendance on the General Assembly or council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that all those persons who live on Boston Neck and Point Judith, and other exposed parts of the sea-coast in this state, be directed to remove immediately all their butter, cheese, corn and other grain (excepting what shall be necessary for the use of their families,) three miles back from the salt water; and that Col. Charles Dyer be, and he is hereby, appointed and fully empowered to see the same done.

Members of the Council of War Appointed.

It is voted and resolved, that His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Esq., the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., the Hon. William Greene, Esq., John Tanner, Ebenezer Thompson, Daniel Cahoone, James Arnold, Henry Ward, Thomas Rumreil, Samuel Babcock, Joshua Babcock, Gideon Hoxsie, Cromel Child, Job Comstock, Gideon Comstock and John Updike, Esqs., be the members of the

council of war, to act in the recess of the General Assembly, agreeably to the act establishing the said council.

It is voted and resolved, that James Congdon, 3d, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £500, lawful money, out of the general treasury, as one of the committee of safety.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., as one of the committee of safety, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £500, lawful money, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, by a resolve of this Assembly, passed at the last session, one-half of the militia, independent, artillery and alarm companies within this state, were draughted, and have done duty for one month,—

It is voted and resolved, that the remaining half-part of said militia, independent, artillery and alarm companies, be draughted into two divisions, on the 6th day of November instant.

That on the 7th day of November instant, one of the said divisions being first formed into companies, and having proper officers assigned to command them, by the field officers of the said regiments of militia, and commanders of independent, artillery and alarm companies, shall march to such place or places as shall be ordered by Gen. Spencer, or his successor in command, and do duty for the space of thirty days from the said 7th day of November inst.

It is further voted and resolved, that each non-commissioned officer and private, who shall be draughted and do duty as aforesaid, shall be allowed as a bounty, forty shillings, and the same wages as are allowed the non-commissioned officers and privates in the Continental service.

It is further voted and resolved, that the other division of said militia, independent, artillery and alarm companies, be formed into companies, and officered as aforesaid; and that they march to such place or places, as shall be directed by Gen. Spencer, or his successor in command, on the 6th day of December next, and do duty for the space of thirty

days, unless discharged or counter ordered by the General Assembly, or council of war, and be entitled to the same bounty and wages, as the said first division.

And the said field officers and commanders of companies, are required on the said 6th day of November, to cause said draught then to be made, upon the penalty of £50, to be recovered for the use of this state.

It is further voted and resolved, that if any person who shall be draughted as aforesaid, shall neglect to do duty, or hire a man to do his tour of duty, the town council of the town in which such person shall reside, are empowered to hire a man in the room of such delinquent person, and to provide in manner as is directed by an act for the relief of persons of tender conscience, if the delinquent person be adjudged by such town council of sufficient ability to bear the expense thereof; or otherwise, the said field officers are empowered and directed to proceed in manner as is directed by a resolve of the council of war, of the 29th day of September last.

It is further voted and resolved, that the towns which have furnished their quota of the men assigned them for filling up the brigade raised by this state, for fifteen months, or any part thereof, shall have credit, and be excused from an equal number of men now ordered out to do their tour of duty, to be drawn by lot from those of the respective towns who may be draughted by virtue of this resolve.

It is further voted and resolved, that the field officers of said regiments be directed to cause all such able-bodied men as were draughted to go upon the late intended expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island, who did not do duty themselves, and in whose stead some other person did not do duty, to do their tour of duty with the first division now ordered out.

It is further voted and resolved, that copies of this act be immediately transmitted to the colonels of said regiments, and commanders of said independent companies.

It is voted and resolved, that the members of the council of war be allowed twelve shillings per day.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war be, and they are hereby, directed to appoint suitable persons to apply to the neighboring states, and request of them to send their respective quotas of troops, to defend the shores of this state; and to remonstrate to the state of Connecticut against a late act of the said state, laying an embargo on provisions within the same.

Whereas, Benjamin Underwood, Esq., hath represented to this Assembly, that he is possessed of a bond for money heretofore lent to this state; that an act of this Assembly was passed, requiring the possessors of bonds, &c., on interest, to receive their money out of the treasury within a certain time, and directing that no interest should be allowed on the same after the expiration of the said time; and that he had no knowledge of the said act until many months after the same was passed, which prevented his making application for his money and interest within the time limited; and thereupon requested this Assembly to allow him his money and interest to this time;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the general treasurer pay unto the said Benjamin Underwood the money due on the said bond, with interest until this time, out of the general treasury; any act to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Charles Shearman, for subsisting soldiers in Lieutenant Colonel Barton's command	7	04	0
John Northup, one of the committee of safety; balance due due him	719	03	0
Christopher Smith, for his services as lieutenant colonel in the fifteen months' brigade	77	04	0
John Sayles, for small arms and bayonets for the use of militia of the town of Smithfield, drafted for the late expedition against Rhode Island	36	00	0
William Channing, for services as assistant clerk of the lower house	7	02	0
Col. Joseph Stanton, for clothing furnished a deserter from the 54th British regiment, who swam off Rhode Island, entirely naked	13	15	0

God save the United States of America.

Henry Laurens to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Yorktown, Pennsylvania, 1st November, 1777.

Sir:—The arms of the United States of America having been blessed in the present campaign with remarkable success, Congress have resolved to recommend that one day, Thursday, the 18th December next, be set apart to be observed by all the inhabitants throughout these states, for a general thanksgiving to Almighty God. And I have it in command to transmit to you the enclosed extract from the minutes of Congress for that purpose.

Your Honor will be pleased to take the necessary measures for carrying the resolve into effect in the state in which you preside.

You will likewise find enclosed, a certified copy of a minute, which will show Your Honor the authority under which I address you.

I am, with great esteem and regard, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient, and most humble servant,

HENRY LAURENS.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Yorktown, Pennsylvania, 28th November, 1777.

Sir:—I had the honor of addressing you under the 1st inst., since which I have received none of your favors.

I have now in charge to forward to you the under mentioned copies of minutes and resolves of Congress, which will go enclosed with this:

Of articles of confederation and perpetual union between the United States of America—three books.

Of address from Congress to the states respectively, recommending the immediate consideration of that important plan for compact.

Urging the necessity for taxation in each state, in order to raise $5,000,000 in the year 1778, for the service of the United States, and as one mean for establishing public credit; recommending also confiscation and sale of the estates of persons who have forfeited the right of protection, and for other purposes.

These papers, so expressive as they are, of the meaning and good views of Congress, require no attempt to a more minute detail of their contents.

It remains, therefore, only to repeat the request of Congress, that you will be pleased to take the earliest opportunity of laying them before the Legislature of your state.

I have the honor to be, with very great respect, sir,

Your Excellency's obedient and most humble servant,

HENRY LAURENS, President of Congress.

To His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Esq.,
Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on Monday, the 1st day of December, 1777.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

The following resolution of the Most Honorable Continental Congress being read:

Resolution of the Continental Congress, appointing a Day of Thanksgiving throughout the United States.

"IN CONGRESS, Nov. 1st, 1777.

Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge, with gratitude, their obligation to him for benefits received; and to implore such further blessings as they stand in need of: and it having pleased him, in his abundant mercy, not only to continue to us the innumerable bounties of his common providence, but also to smile upon us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war, for the defence and establishment of our unalienable rights and liberties; particularly in that he hath been pleased, in so great a measure, to prosper the means used for the support of our troops, and to crown our arms with most signal success.

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United States, to set apart Thursday, the 18th day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise; that at one time, and with one voice, the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine Benefactor; and that, together with their sincere acknowledgments and offerings, they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they had forfeited every favor; and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance.

That it may please him graciously to afford his blessing on the governments of these states respectively, and prosper the public Council of the whole.

To inspire our commanders both by land and sea, and all under them, with that wisdom and fortitude which may render them fit instruments, under the providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States the greatest of all human blessings, independence and peace.

That it may please him to prosper the trade and manufactures of the people, and the labor of the husbandman, that our land may yield its increase.

To take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety, under his nuturing hand; and to prosper the

means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth 'in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.'

And it is further recommended, that servile labor, and such recreation as, though at other times innocent, may be unbecoming the purpose of this appointment, may be omitted on so solemn an occasion. CHA. THOMPSON, Sec'ry."

It is voted and resolved, that Thursday, the 18th day of December instant, be set apart for a day of solemn thanksgiving and praise, throughout this state, agreeably to the above resolve; and that all servile labor and recreation is forbidden on that day; and His Excellency the Governor is desired to issue a proclamation accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the persons now on board the flag of truce from Newport, be permitted to land at Warwick Neck or Pawtuxet; and that Thomas Cook, Jr., Godfrey Brown and Henry Northup, be immediately landed and brought before this Assembly.

Whereas, Mr. Jeoffry Willcox, by a vote of this house, is not received as a member thereof, being suspected to be unfriendly to this state,—

It is therefore resolved, that the freemen of the town of Exeter be, and they are hereby, directed and empowered, to choose another deputy in his room, to represent said town in this Assembly.

Whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that there are coarse woolen cloths, stockings and linen to be disposed of at Newburyport, on reasonable terms, for the use of the army; and whereas, the soldiers belonging to this state are in great want of clothing,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered in behalf of this state, to proceed to Newburyport, and purchase such articles as may be suitable for the purpose aforesaid; and he is hereby empowered to draw out of the general treasury a sum not exceeding £3,000, lawful money, for executing said business.

It is voted and resolved, that Peter Phillips, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £300, lawful money, out

of the general treasury; and that he re-pay the same as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., be allowed five per cent. commissions for the clothing heretofore purchased by him in behalf of this state.

Whereas, this Assembly is informed that the farm and appurtenances in Little Compton, sold by Col. Thomas Church to Mr. Gideon Sisson, is still in the possession of said Col. Church, but who proposes to give up the possession thereof, soon; and as it does not appear that Mr. Sisson has empowered any person to take possession of said farm,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Col. William Richmond be, and he is hereby, empowered to receive the possession of said farm and appurtenances, and deliver the same to Capt. William Taggart on the 25th day of March next, to improve the same for his own advantage, to support himself and family, rent free; that he hold possession thereof, one year or longer, at the pleasure of the General Assembly; and that said William Taggart be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £300, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for the support of himself and family, the ensuing winter, as a gratuity for his sufferings and damages sustained by his extraordinary exertions in behalf of, and for, the advantage of this state, in the late intended expedition against the enemy, on Rhode Island.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. William Richmond be, and he is hereby, empowered to collect the money arising from the sale of cattle and sheep, belonging to Gervas Elam, late of Portsmouth, deceased, and Metcalf Bowler, which were brought from Rhode Island, upon the appearance of the enemy's fleet, in December last, and that he pay the same into the treasury.

Whereas, a great uneasiness prevails among the officers and soldiers belonging to the brigade raised for fifteen months, and doing duty in this state, for want of clothes and other necessaries,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said officers

and soldiers be punctually supplied with clothes now due to them by agreement, as soon as may be.

And that those non-commissioned officers and soldiers who have received money in lieu of clothing, or who are destitute of any articles of clothing, and which are not due to them by contract, be furnished therewith by either of the committees of safety within this state, at the prices at which clothing was fixed, and which have been paid in lieu of the same; and the said committees of safety are hereby directed to furnish them accordingly.

It is further voted and resolved, that said brigade be furnished with fifty pounds weight of sugar per hundred men per week, in lieu of butter and molasses, and with sauce according to Continental rations.

That the same be purchased under the direction of the commanding officers of the regiments in said brigade; and that they apply to the council of war for such sums of money as will be necessary for procuring the same.

Whereas, agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly, the town council of the several towns within this state, have hired men in the room of persons who have been drafted, and neglected to do duty; and whereas, some of the persons so drafted, and neglecting to duty as aforesaid, have no goods or chattels, or have concealed the same, so that a warrant of distress, issued agreeably to said resolve, cannot be satisfied; and it having been represented that some of the said persons are seized of large real estates,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that said town councils be, and they are hereby, empowered to take possession of the real estates of such persons, and lease the same; or cut as much wood upon the same, and dispose thereof, as will be sufficient to satisfy the money expended in hiring the men to do duty in their room; unless the persons who have been drafted, and neglected to do duty, shall, upon notice hereof, otherwise discharge the same.

Whereas, this state hath not received that benefit from the company of boatmen, who were enlisted under the command

of Major Nathan Munro, as was expected when they were ordered to be raised; and they are very expensive,—

It is voted and resolved, that said company, both officers and men, be disbanded and dismissed from the service of this state, within twenty days next after the rising of this Assembly; and that General Spencer have notice hereof, that in the mean time he may collect all the boats that have been taken into Continental service by him, and return them to the several places they have been taken from.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff, for the county of Kings, forthwith take possession of the farm in North Kingstown, lately belonging to Gervas Elam, in behalf of this state; that he prevent any waste being committed on the same; and that Mr. Thomas Hazard, who is at present in possession of said estate, account with the state for the rents and profits of the same.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said sheriff take possession of a certain farm in South Kingstown, in behalf of this state, belonging to Stephen Ayrault; that the tenant who is in possession thereof, account for the rents and profits of the same, with this state.

That the sheriff also take possession of a farm in South Kingstown, belonging to Gideon Sissson, in behalf of this state; and that the tenant account for the rents.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Crary be empowered to draw £100, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for purchasing sauce for the use of the troops of his regiment, and of the regiment under the command of Col. Barton, agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly.

That William Bennett, who is in possession of the sugar belonging to this state, deliver to Colonel Crary two hogsheads thereof, for the same purpose; and that Col. Crary account therefor, to this Assembly; or, in the recess thereof, to the council of war.

Whereas, Henry Ward, Esq., hath laid before this Assembly, a letter, wherein request is made by General Pigot, that

permit be given that some wine, tea and sugar, may be sent by him to General Burgoyne; wherefore—

Resolved, that permission be, and hereby is, given unto General Pigot, to send the aforesaid articles to General Burgoyne, in a cartel vessel, directed to the care of Mr. Ward; and that the same be forwarded for the purpose aforesaid.

An Act to prevent the soldiery, within this state, selling and squandering away the camp utensils, &c.

Whereas, it frequently happens that the inhabitants and others, in this state, being instigated with a sordid, selfish view of making gain and advantage to themselves, do purchase and receive of the soldiery within this state, their guns, blankets and camp utensils; which is of the most pernicious consequence, and ought to be speedily prevented; in order, therefore, to remedy such mal-practices for the future,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that if any person or persons whoever, shall purchase, or take in pledge, of any soldier or soldiers belonging or serving in this state, any clothes, guns, bayonets, or camp utensils whatever, that he, she or they, so offending, shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit and pay as a fine therefor, to and for the use of this state, six fold the value or price of such article by him or them so received; or shall suffer such corporal punishment as the court before whom he, she or they, shall be convicted, shall adjudge adequate to such offence, together with all lawful cost.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each and every person who shall knowingly and willingly conceal any article or articles whatever, belonging to this state, or the United States in general, which have been delivered out for the use of the soldiers, shall be deemed as purchasers, and suffer accordingly.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the aforesaid crimes shall be heard and determined before any courts, within this state, where the same are cognizable.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., deliver unto Col. Crary twenty pair of breeches, for the use of his regiment; and also that he deliver twenty pair of breeches unto the commanding officer of the regiment late commanded by Col. Stanton, for the use of that regiment.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., one of the committee of safety, deliver unto Col. Crary, for the use of his regiment, one hundred shirts, one hundred pair of stockings and fifteen pair of shoes; and also that he deliver unto the commanding officer of the regiment late commanded by Col. Stanton, one hundred shirts, one hundred pair of stockings and fifteen pair of shoes, for the use of that regiment.

It is voted and resolved, that Ezekiel Cornell, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed brigadier general of this state's troops, until further orders of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that one-fourth part of the militia, independent, artillery and alarm companies, heretofore drafted to do duty on the 6th day of December inst., be not called upon duty upon the said 6th day of December, but that they be discharged from the same until the further orders of this Assembly, or the council of war.

It is further voted and resolved, that the towns on the sea coast, in which no troops are stationed, be empowered to enlist (if they think it necessary for the safety thereof,) a sergeant and twelve men, as artillery men, or otherwise to do duty within said towns, and guard the shores of the same.

That the aforesaid companies be under the same rules, regulations and command, as the fifteen months' brigade are; and that so much of the act establishing artillery companies within said towns, as empowers them to appoint two officers to fourteen men, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is further voted and resolved, that weekly returns be made by the sergeant to Major General Spencer; and that they be allowed as a bounty, forty shillings, lawful money, per

month, and be entitled to the same wages and rations as non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the Continental service.

It is voted and resolved, that the time for payment of the tax of £32,000, lawful money, ordered to be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, at the session of this Assembly in August last, be lengthened to the 1st day of January next.

That the general treasurer be empowered to issue warrants for collecting the same, within fifteen days from the rising of this Assembly; and that the said sum be paid in, on the said 1st day of January, without interest.

Whereas, Jos. Stanton, Jr., Esq., colonel of one of the regiments raised for fifteen months, hath represented unto this Assembly, that he hath considered himself as having resigned his commission since the 10th day of November last, and hath requested this Assembly to approbate his resignation; wherefore—

Resolved, that the resignation of the said Joseph Stanton, Jr., be accepted; and that he be dismissed from said command.

It is further voted and resolved, that William Barton, Esq., now lieutenant colonel of said regiment, be, and he is hereby, appointed colonel, thereof, in the place of said Col. Joseph Stanton, Jr.

And it is further voted and resolved, that Nathaniel Hawkins, Esq., now major of said regiment, be, and he is hereby, appointed lieutenant colonel of said regiment, in the room of the said William Barton, Esq., who is advanced.

Whereas, Samuel Segar, Stephen Champlin and Freeman Perry, three of the members of the town council of South Kingstown, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that when the men ordered to be raised to join General Spencer's camp, were drafted in said town, a number of persons were drafted, who refused to do duty; that they hired men in the stead of Stephen Haszard, Wilkinson Browning, Sylvester Robinson, Josiah Clarke, Peleg Gard-

ner, Robert Rodman and William Knowles, being part of those who refused to serve, which cost the sum of £354, as will appear by receipts produced.

That they are persuaded their brethren will not pretend they could hire cheaper.

That they have produced to a full council their receipts, and moved for an order of council that warrants of distress might be issued against the delinquents; and that the council being divided, such have been the proceedings, they are deprived of every means of relief for the large sums advanced, unless by the interposition of this Assembly; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to point out some method by which they may be re-paid the large sums advanced, and have some satisfaction for the expense and trouble they have been put to; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the town council issue warrants of distraint for the money expended, and the interest and cost that have arisen thereon, against the above named persons for whom the men were hired, agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that James Potter, with his wife and child, and Sarah Perry, be permitted to go in a flag to the island of Rhode Island, from such place as shall be approbated by General Spencer, or the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Dyer forthwith apprehend Ezra Gleason, who, it hath been represented to this Assembly, hath uniformly in his conduct and conversation manifested himself inimical to the liberties of America; and that he send him to the council of war, to be dealt with accordingly; and Col. Charles Dyer is required to notify those persons who have been witnesses to his said conduct and conversation, to attend said council, to give information respecting the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Peter Phillips, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to proceed to the state of Connec-

ticut, and purchase there a quantity of provisions for the use of the troops within this state; and that he apply to the council of war for orders on the general treasurer, for such sum or sums of money as they shall think proper for the purpose aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the committees of safety forthwith pay the bounty and wages due to the militia, who were drafted, and did duty in the late intended expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island, excepting the wages due the commissioned officers in the regiment late under the command of Col. Dyer; and that their wages be detained until certain guns delivered said regiment, in said expedition, which are missing, be returned.

It is voted and resolved, that two hundred, one-quarter, and twenty-four pounds of iron, in the hands of Mr. Isaac Manchester, belonging to this state, be sold to the said Isaac at £12, per hundred weight; and that he pay the amount thereof, into the treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that William Greene, Caleb Aldrich and John Dexter, Esqs., be a committee to secure, and carefully examine, the records and papers of the Meeting of Sufferings, within this state; and that they make report to the council of war, that they may thereupon proceed agreeably to a resolve of Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £48,000, lawful money, be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, to be levied, collected and paid into the general treasury, by the 1st day of March next.

That the same be proportioned according to the last apportionment.

That after the same is proportioned, as aforesaid, so much shall be deducted from the proportion of the town of Providence, as shall be equal to the apportioned value of £25,000; so much from the proportion of the town of Bristol, as shall be equal to the apportioned value of £10,000; so much from the proportion of the town of East Greenwich, as shall be equal to the apportioned value of £2,750.

That the proportionment of the other towns, be agreeably to the said apportionment.

That the poll tax be sixpence for every £1,000.

That Mr. Nathaniel Mumford proportion said tax, and draft a bill agreeably to an act for levying a tax of £32,000; with this addition, that the towns be thereby empowered to appoint new collectors and assessors.

That the tax be paid in, in Continental or this state's money; and that he report the same to the council of war; which act being found by the said council to be agreeably to this resolve, shall be in force, and considered as an act of this Assembly.

Dissent from the above Resolution.

The subscribers dissent from the vote of the lower house of Asssembly, passed December 6th, A. D. 1777, ordering a tax to be laid upon the inhabitants of this state, for the following reasons, viz.:

Because, by the general estimate taken in the year 1767, the town of Providence stood valued at the sum of £125,000 lawful money; and in order to induce the General Assembly to consent to begin taxation, the representatives of the town of Providence, in March last, agreed to have the sum of £100,000, in value, added to the estimate of the said town, with the express reserve that the said proportion should not be brought into precedent in the apportioning any future tax.

And because the General Assembly have since apportioned a tax of £32,000, and have afforded the said town of Providence no relief, they having petitioned for the same.

And because the same General Assembly have, by their vote of the 6th of this instant December, ordered another tax of £48,000, in which they have kept on the sum of £75,000, that was part of the £100,000, that was added as aforesaid, to the estimate of the said town, in the £16,000 tax.

And because the representatives of the said town have solicited for relief from the abovesaid sum.

The situation of the town of Providence being now very different from what it was when the £100,000 was added to the estimate of the town, arising from an invasion of the state; a long blocking up of the port of the town; a removal of a large number of the inhabitants, with their personal estates, to the amount of many thousand pounds; almost an entire stoppage of all trade and commerce; many and great expenses daily arising to the town from the high prices of all the necessaries of life; with many other great burthens with which the country in general is not distressed; all which different circumstances are not considered in said vote.

Against which, from its illegality, and in justice to ourselves and our constituents, we do, in the most solemn manner, dissent and protest.

JOHN UPDIKE,
JABEZ BOWEN,
THEODOREE FOSTE.

East Greenwich, Dec. 6th, 1777.

It is voted and resolved, that General Cornell forthwith sell, at public vendue, the horses heretofore purchased for the use of the state; and that he render an account thereof, to the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford, Joseph Coggeshall and Benjamin Stelle, be a committee to hear and determine the demands of Mr. George Irish, against this state, respecting his cattle and sheep brought off from the island of Rhode Island, and all other his accounts against this state; and that they make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that two thousand pair of men's good yarn stockings be furnished by the several towns within this state, for the use of the soldiers, agreeably to the following proportion, viz.:

Proportion of Yarn Stockings to be furnished by the several Towns, for the use of the Soldiers.

	Pair.		Pair.
Providence -	272	Bristol,	56
Warwick - -	120	Tiverton, - -	88
Westerly -	72	Little Compton,	80
North Kingstown, -	112	Warren, - -	24
South Kingstown,	216	Cumberland, -	56
East Greenwich, -	64	Richmond, - -	48
Smithfield, -	128	Cranston, -	88
Scituate, - -	96	Hopkinton, - -	64
Glocester, -	80	Johnston, -	40
Charlestown, -	56	North Providence,	40
West Greenwich,	48	Barrington, -	32
Coventry, - -	56		
Exeter, -	64		2,000

And it is further voted and resolved, that the several collectors of taxes within the respective towns be, and they are hereby, authorized, empowered and directed, to procure

the aforesaid stockings by the best ways and means they can devise, either by purchasing or distraining the same; that the said collectors be empowered to receive said stockings on account of the taxes, which they are, or may be, empowered to collect; that one thousand pair of said stockings be delivered unto Mr. Paul Allen, of Providence, within twenty, and the other thousand pair within forty days next after the rising of this Assembly; that the collectors be allowed five per cent. commissions for procuring the same; that the accounts be laid before the council of war, to be adjusted; and that the money, for the stockings aforesaid, be paid out of the general treasury.

And it is further voted and resolved, that if any of the collectors aforesaid, shall distrain or impress any stockings from the inhabitants, the same shall be appraised by said collector, and the value paid to the persons.

And it is further voted and resolved, that if any of the towns aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to raise their quota, and proportion of said stockings, as is before proportioned, within the time aforesaid, and deliver them as aforesaid, they shall forfeit and pay into the general treasury of this state $8, for each and every pair of stockings for which they are delinquent; to be recovered by the general treasurer, to and for the use of this state, by bill or plaint in any court of record proper to try the same.

It is further voted and resolved, that copies hereof, be immediately sent to the several town clerks within the towns, aforesaid, to be delivered the said collectors.

It is voted and resolved, that the militia and alarm company of the town of Little Compton be drafted into two divisions on the 10th day of December inst., and be formed into companies, with proper officers.

That one of the said divisions do duty within the said town, to guard the shores of the same, for the space of thirty days from the said 10th day of December.

That after the expiration of the said thirty days, the first

division be relieved by the second, who shall do duty within the said town, for the space of thirty days.

That they continue to relieve each other, and do duty in manner as aforesaid, until the further orders of this Assembly.

That the commanding officers of the militia and alarm companies, in the said town, cause the said draft to be made, and the said division to be duly relieved, agreeably to this resolve.

That they be stationed by General Spencer, and be under the immediate command of the commanding officer of the alarm company in said town; and that they be under the same rules, regulations and command, as the brigade raised by this state, for fifteen months.

It is further voted and resolved, that if any pereson who shall be drafted, as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to do duty, the town council hire a man in the room of such delinquent person, and proceed in manner as is directed by a resolve of this Assembly, passed at the session in October last.

And it is further voted and resolved, that each non-commissioned officer and private, who shall do duty as aforesaid, be allowed, as a bounty, forty shillings, lawful money; and that the officers and privates be allowed the same wages and rations as the officers and privates in the Continental service.

Whereas, John Grimes, late commander of the private ship of war American Tartar, hath represented unto this Assembly that he was captured during his cruise by one of the British ships of war, and carried into Halifax.

That being there a prisoner, he was suffered by Sir George Collier to return to Boston, upon his parole.

That either the master of the British ship Fox, who is a prisoner of war within the state of Massachusetts Bay, should be released in his stead, or that he would surrender himself a prisoner of war again.

That the said master of the Fox is designed to be exchanged for the late master of the Continental ship Hancock, who is a prisoner of war at Halifax.

That the master of the British ship of war Syren, is here a prisoner; and it hath been proposed that he should be held, in order to exchange for Mr. Esek Hopkins, Jr., who was an acting lieutenant on board the Providence sloop, and is a prisoner of war at Halifax; and that Mr. Otway, lieutenant in the British frigate Lark, was captured by this state's troops, and will be exchanged for said Hopkins,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, earnestly requested of the Honorable Major General Spencer to suffer and permit the said Lieutenant Otway to be given up, in order to redeem said Mr. Hopkins from captivity; and that, upon General Spencer's permitting the said Otway to be given in exchange, as aforesaid, the late master of the British ship Syren, who is here a prisoner, shall be delivered up to be exchanged for the master of the Hancock, or Capt. Grimes.

The following resolve of the Most Honorable the Continental Congress being read,—

Postmasters and Riders excused from Military Duty.

"In Congress, May 12th, 1777.

Resolved, that all post masters, post riders, and persons immediately concerned in conducting the business of the post office, ought to be exempted from all military duties; and that it be recommended to the legislatures of the different states to exempt such persons accordingly. CHA. THOMPSON, Sec'ry."

In conformity whereto,—

It is voted and resolved, that post masters, post riders, and all persons immediately concerned in conducting the business of the post office, within this state, be, and they are hereby, exempted from all military duties, agreeably to the foregoing resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that Stephen Mumford, Esq., be,

and he is hereby, appointed to examine the state of the sugar belonging to this state, in the town of Warwick, and report the same the council of war; and that said council apply said sugar to such uses as may be most for the interest of this state.

Whereas, two of the companies of militia, of the town of Smithfield, belong to the second regiment, in the county of Providence; and one company in said town, belongs to the first regiment, in said county; and it being found that many inconveniences attend the said companies being so divided,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the first company of militia in the town of Smithfield, shall, in future, belong to the second regiment, in the county of Providence, and be under the direction and command of the field officers of the same; any act to the contrary, notwithstanding.

God save the United States of America.

Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Yorktown, 3d December, 1777.

Sir:—The last which I had the honor of writing to you, was dated the 28th ult., and forwarded by Messenger Fred. Weare, to which I beg leave to refer.

Congress, ever watchful over the United States of America, and diligent to defeat the numerous and various practices of our grand enemy, equally cruel and subtle, have taken under consideration a device calculated for depreciating the value of money issued by authority of Congress, and of the several states, after the good people had found it necessary to assert their rights and to take government into their own hands. The pernicious stratagem now in view, although the discovery of it is not quite new, appears more glaring from a late publication in Philadelphia, subscribed by a very great number of those misguided persons who chose to remain in the city, and welcome the enemy to rivet their fetters.

It is also notorious that many timid and lukewarm friends in several of the states, have, from motives probably more avaricious than directly inimical, long given a great preference to what is called the old money, which evidently tends to lessen the estimation and currency of the new; and does in the same instance demonstrate, if not an inclination to overturn our independence, apprehensions which ought to be banished from the mind of every inhabitant in the Union.

From an earnest desire therefore, to counteract the wicked projects of our enemies, and to rectify such errors of our almost friends, Congress have confirmed a resolution

of this date, recommending to the states respectively to enact laws sufficient for accomplishing these good ends.

I have the honor of forwarding the resolve under this cover, which Your Honor will be pleased to lay before the Legislature of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. I am, with very great regard and esteem, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient servant,

HENRY LAURENS, President of Congress.

To Hon. Governor Cooke, Esq., Rhode Island, &c.

Gen. Pigot to Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne.

Newport, Rhode Island, Dec. 5th, 1777.

Dear Sir:—I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Raisonable man-of-war, with twenty-six transports, under convoy from the Delaware, are off the harbor's mouth, that eight of the transports are got in, and their orders are to take your troops on board here.

That no time may be lost, and that you may have the earliest information, I send this under cover to M. G. Spencer, and have begged of him to forward it to you by express; when I get my letters, if I receive any orders which are to be communicated to you, will send you another express.

I would recommend to you to apply to the council at Providence for permission to be supplied with sheep, fowls and other live stock from the Seaconnet or Narragansett shore, or in such manner as they shall think proper; as this island does not abound ————. I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you here, and will have a house ready to receive you.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

RICHARD PIGOT.

To Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the Council of the State of Massachusetts.

State of Rhode Island, &c.,
In Council Chamber, Providence, Dec. 7th, 1777.

Gent.:—General Spencer having favored us with a copy of a letter from General Pigot to General Burgoyne, which hath been forwarded to him; we observe that it is intended that Mr. Burgoyne and his late army should embark at Newport, as transports are arrived at that place for their reception.

We would suggest to you, gentlemen, that it appears by the convention agreed to by General Gates, that it was his intention that Mr. Burgoyne's troops should not intermix with the other troops of the British King, serving in America; as the port of Boston was assigned for their embarkation. It is our design to fulfil that convention in every matter that may come within our department.

On the other hand, we do not intend to be accessory to giving them greater advantages than they can derive therefrom. For which reason, gentlemen, we cannot prevail with ourselves to admit Mr. Burgoyne's late army within our state, in order to proceed to Newport, as we are sensible of the many disadvantages that may arise to the United States therefrom.

Please to communicate to General Burgoyne. We are, &c.,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Council of the Massachusetts Bay.

The Council of the State of Massachusetts to the Governor of Rhode Island.

State of Massachusetts Bay,
Council Chamber, Boston, December 7th, 1777.

Sir:—We have received your letter of the 8th instant. We agree with you in sentiment that it appears by the convention agreed to by General Gates, that General Burgoyne and his troops were to embark for Great Britain from the port of Boston, and are of opinion that it is not in the power of this state, or any other of the United States, to take any steps with regard to this matter, that may deviate therefrom. This matter lays wholly with the Congress. Whatever they may determine upon, we shall acquiesce in. In the name, and by order of Council,

I am, sir, with respect and esteem,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
JER. POWELL, President.

To Governor Cooke.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the Council of the State of Massachusetts.

State of Rhode Island, &c.,
In Council of War, Providence, Dec. 14th, 1777.

Gent.:—The time for which your troops engaged serving in this state, being nearly expired, makes us very anxious to know whether you have made provision for re-placing them, and for filling up the whole quota of troops assigned by the committee of the New England states for our defence.

As we have frequently represented unto you our defenceless state, the extent of our sea-coasts, the strength of the enemy, situated in the heart of our country, it will be needless to trouble you with a repetition thereof.

By the preparation the enemy are making at Newport, by fitting up a large number of barracks, not even sparing the meeting houses, to which they are building chimnies, leave it without a doubt that they expect large reinforcements.

We must therefore, gentlemen, urge in the strongest terms, the necessity of your attention upon us, to consider in what a defenceless and deplorable condition we shall be in, if your troops are withdrawn, before provision is made for re-placing them. We earnestly entreat that you would take this matter into your consideration, and make that provision for our defence, of which you have given us repeated assurances, and which, without doubt, intend, as it is of the greatest consequence to all the United States, to prevent the enemy's bringing entire ruin and devastation upon us.

We are, &c., NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Council of the Massachusetts Bay.

The Council of the State of Massachusetts to the Governor of Rhode Island.

State of Massachusetts Bay,
Council Chamber, Boston, Decembr 16th, 1777.

Sir:—This day received your favor dated the 14th inst.; antecedent thereto, the General Assembly entered upon the consideration of supplying the state of Rhode

Island with fifteen hundred men, according to the report of several committees at Springfield and Rhode Island.

A full sense that the term our troops now in the state of Rhode Island engaged for, is near expiring, and of the distress of your state, arising from so large a body of our common enemy being in possession of your capital, early in this session engaged the attention of the General Court. That we may clearly demonstrate to Your Excellency that we have not been unmindful of your situation and defence, the General Court, by their resolve, dated December 13th, 1777, have largely encouraged the regiments of Colonels Robinson and Keyes to continue in service for the term of one year from the 1st day of January next.

An extract of said resolve, transmitted to the said colonels, is enclosed.

In the name, and behalf of the Council,

I am, with respect, Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

JER. POWELL, President.

To His Excellency Governor Cooke.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on Friday, the 19th day of December, 1777.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at the second session in March last, did pass an act requiring the Governor, whenever necessity should require the calling of the General Assembly, to convene it at the place of the last session; and the Governor, through a mistake of the secretary, did call this present Assembly to meet at Providence instead of East Greenwich, where, by the letter of the law, it ought to have been convened; and whereas, some doubts may arise with regard to the validity of the acts of this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that this Assembly, taking into consideration several matters recommended to them, by the Most Honorable the Continental Congress, and the necessity of acting upon some of them immediately, will proceed to business; and that the several acts, orders and resolutions, which shall be enacted and passed during the present session, shall be of the same force and validity, to every in-

tent and purpose, as though this Assembly had been called and actually held at East Greenwich.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the convening this present Assembly, in manner as aforesaid, shall not be drawn into precedent, but that the act before recited, for convening the General Assembly upon special occasions, at the place of the last sitting, shall remain and be in full force and virtue; and that if this Assembly be called by warrant before it meet by adjournment, it be convened at East Greenwich.

It is voted and resolved, that in pursuance of a resolution of Congress, of the 22d November last, this Assembly will appoint commissioners to meet such commissioners as shall be appointed by the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware, for the purposes in said resolution contained.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, made choice of the Hon. William Greene, Esq., and Colonel Jabez Bowen, commissioners, to meet commissioners from the other states, agreeably to the recommendation of Congress, of the 22d of November last, to take into consideration the several matters in, and by, the said resolve pointed out.

Henry Ward, Esq., having represented unto this Assembly, that he could not hold his seat as a member of the council of war, from the necessity of his attendance upon the secretary's office, in order that the acts and orders of this Assembly be forthwith printed, and begged leave to resign; thereupon, leave is given, and he resigns his seat accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Jabez Bowen and Esek Hopkins, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed members of the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that this Assembly will appoint an agent for the clothing department, agreeably to a request of James Mease, Esq., clothiergeneral of the Continental army.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, made

choice of John Reynolds, Esq., to be agent-clothier for this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Jabez Bowen and Mr. John Updike be, and they are hereby, appointed to examine the sails, rigging and furniture, belonging to the ship Aurora, owned by this state; and if there shall be any spare rigging and sails belonging to said vessel, as the sloop Diamond may require, that they deliver the same to Mr. Pardon Gray, for the use of the said sloop Diamond; or other wise, that they purchase such sails and rigglng as the said sloop may require, and deliver the same to the said Pardon Gray, for the purpose aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the resolutions of Congress, of the 22d of November last, be printed; and that a copy thereof, be forthwith transmitted to each of the members of the General Assembly, and to each of the town clerks within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the consideration of the articles of confederation proposed for the United States, and of the tax recommended by Congress, to be assessed upon the inhabitants of the United States of America, in the year 1778, be referred to the next session of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Ward, Henry Marchant, Rowse J. Helme and William Channing, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed to draft a bill for confiscating and making sale of all the real and personal estate of such of the inhabitants of this state, and other persons who have forfeited the same, and the right to the protection of this state; and to invest the moneys arising from the sales, in Continental loan-office certificates, to be appropriated as shall be hereafter directed by the legislative authority of this state, agreeably to the recommendation of Congress, of the 22d of November last; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

Whereas, this Assembly did, at the last session, resolve that the company of boatmen serving in this state, both officers and soldiers, should be discharged within twenty days,

next after the rising of said Assembly, and that in the interim the said boatmen should collect the boats that were taken into the Continental service, by order of General Spencer, and return them to the several places from whence they were taken; and this Assembly being informed that said boatmen have neglected to perform said order, although commanded by General Spencer so to do,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said company of boatmen, officers and soldiers, shall not be paid any wages since the rising of said last Assembly, unless they can show to this Assembly good reasons why they disobeyed the orders aforesaid; and that a copy of this resolve be immediately transmitted to the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., and John Cooke, Esq.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to lease the estates, for produce, which have been taken possession of in behalf of this state, and belonging to persons unfriendly to the United States, for the space of one year, from the 25th day of March next; and to make inquiry into the rents which have arisen, or shall become due, on the said 25th day of March next, for said estates; and that he make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the committees of safety be, and they are hereby, directed forthwith to discharge the demands which arose against the state, in the late expedition against the enemy on the island of Rhode Island; and that they apply to the council of war for such sums of money as shall be necessary for the purpose aforesaid; and the said committees are further directed immediately to make out their accounts, and present them to the council of war, for adjustment.

It is further voted and resolved, that upon the adjustment of said accounts, the auditor of accounts make out the account of this state against the United States, and present the same to the council of war, which being approved of, the said council are empowered to forward the same to the

delegate from this state, in Congress, and request a payment of the balance thereof, as soon as may be; and it is ordered that a copy thereof, be immediately forwarded to each of the committees of safety within this state.

Whereas, Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, and Rowse J. Helme, Esq., preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that they have, for a considerable time past, devoted themselves entirely to the business of this state.

That they are paid for their services by the day, without having any other perquisite annexed to their employ; and that from the excessively exorbitant price of every necessary article of life, they find their pay insufficient to maintain them, &c.; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to take the same into consideration, and make such provision for them, that they may be enabled to perform their respective services with cheerfulness; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the said Nathaniel Mumford and Rowse J. Helme be allowed each $4 per day, while employed in the service of this state.

Whereas, at the last session of this Assembly, the committees of safety were directed not to pay the wages due to the commissioned officers in the regiment under the command of Col. Dyer, until certain guns received by the said regiment, and belonging the United States, are accounted for,—

It is voted and resolved, that the wages of such officers only be retained, as have not accounted for the guns by them respectively received; and that the wages of the other officers be immediately paid them; the said resolve to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Sumner be advanced to the rank and pay of a major, in the service of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Sion Martindale, a major in service of this state, be called before the council of war, to

render an account of his conduct in said office; and said council are empowered to dismiss him from said office, if it shall appear to them that his services are no longer required.

Whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that Thomas Cranston, Esq., and Mr. Henry Northup, lately come off from the island of Rhode Island, are unfriendly to the liberties of America,—

It is voted and resolved, that it be recommended to the council of war to call said persons before them, to be by them examined touching the premises; and that thereupon they proceed in such manner as may be consistent with the safety of this state.

Whereas, the college edifice in the town of Providence, hath for some time been improved as barracks for the soldiers stationed within said town, whereby the said building is so greatly damaged, as to render the same useless for the purpose aforesaid,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Mr. John Jenckes be, and he is hereby, appointed so far to repair said building, as that the expense thereof, shall not exceed £100, lawful money, and in such manner as shall best answer the purpose intended; and that the said sum, or so much thereof, as shall be necessary for repairing the said building, as aforesaid, be paid to the said John Jenckes, by one of the committee of safety.

Provided nevertheless, that this allowance shall not be taken and deemed as a precedent for making any future allowance for repairing the said edifice.

Whereas, this Assembly hath received information, that a correspondence is maintained with the enemy, at the house of the widow Sarah Slocum, in North Kingstown; and it being known that the family there are very unfriendly to the liberties of America, whereby it is unsafe for the welfare and happiness of this state, that the said family should be suffered to continue any longer in possession thereof; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of

Kings forthwith remove the said widow Slocum, and the family that lives there, to some place at least ten miles distant from the shore.

That if the said Sarah Slocum, or either of her children, shall, after their said removal, be found in any part of this state, within the said distance of ten miles of any of the shores thereof, the sheriff of the county in which they, or either of them, may so transgress, or his deputy, is hereby empowered and directed forthwith to apprehend and commit them, or either of them, to the jail in said county; who shall be there confined until the further orders of this Assembly, or the council of war; and that some suitable person be plaecd in the house to take care of the stock, &c., upon said farm.

And it is further voted and resolved, that if occasion requires, the sheriff aforesaid, shall call upon Col. Dyer for assistance, who is hereby directed to send such aid to the said sheriff as he may require for that purpose.

And it is further resolved, that the wife of George Wightman, his sons and their families (excepting the father of the said George), and Palmer Sheldon and his family, be removed by the said sheriff to the said distance of ten miles from the said shores of this state; and that they be apprehended and committed, if found within said distance, in manner as is afore directed.

An Act for raising and equipping fifteen hundred men.

Whereas, our enemies have invaded this state with a powerful armament, and are now in possession of the island of Rhode Island, whereby we are imminently exposed to still more hostile attacks,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is hereby enacted, that two battalions, each consisting of six hundred men, including officers; as also a regiment of artillery, consisting of three hundred men, officers included, be immediately raised for the defence of the United States in general, and of this state

in particular; and that the said two battalions, and regiment of artillery, be formed into one brigade, under the command of a brigadier general.

That each battalion be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, and one major; and consist of eight companies, to be led each by one captain, one lieutenant, and one ensign.

That the said regiment of artillery be commanded by one colonel, and one major; and consist of four companies; which shall be led by one captain, one captain-lieutenant, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, and one lieutenant-fireworker; and that there be appointed to each of the said battalions and regiment, a paymaster, one adjutant, and one quartermaster; and to said battalions one surgeon, and one surgeon's mate.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each able-bodied man, who shall enlist himself into either of said battalions and regiment, shall be furnished with one hat, one uniform coat, two waistcoats, two pair of breeches, three shirts, three pair of stockings, two pair of shoes, one hunting-shirt, and one pair of overalls; and shall also be furnished with a blanket, knapsack, gun, bayonet, cartouch-box, and canteen, to be returned or accounted for, at the expiration of his service; and that he be allowed as a bounty, £20, lawful money.

And if any man who shall be enlisted into the said brigade, and shall not be approved of by the muster-master of the battalion or regiment into which he may be enlisted, all sum or sums of money which he shall have received, shall be deducted from the wages of the officer who enlisted him.

And be it further enacted, that the officers who may be appointed in said battalions or regiment, and the non-commissioned officers and soldiers who shall enlist into the same, be entitled to the same wages and rations as officers and soldiers in the Continental service.

That each able-bodied man who shall enlist himself into

either of the said battalions or regiment, be allowed twenty shillings per week, after enlistment, and before he is embodied; and that he be embodied within one week after he is enlisted.

And be it further enacted, that the said officers and soldiers shall receive their pay monthly; and that eight shillings, lawful money, be allowed and paid for every able-bodied man who shall be enlisted into either of the said battalions or regiment, to the officer by whom he shall be enlisted.

And be it further enacted, that the officers and soldiers, when embodied as aforesaid, shall be under the same rules, orders and regulations, as those of the Continental army; and that each field officer and captain, who shall be appointed in the said battalions and regiment, be furnished with a copy thereof, unless they have been heretofore furnished with the same.

And be it further enacted, that each soldier be enlisted by the following enlistment, to wit:

Form of Enlistment of the Soldiers.

"I, the subscriber, do hereby solemnly engage and enlist myself as a soldier, in the pay of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, for the preservation of the liberties of America, and the defence of the United States in general, and this state in particular, from the day of my enlistment, until the 16th day of March, in the year of our Lord 1779, unless sooner discharged by this Assembly; and I hereby promise to submit myself to all the orders and regulations of the army; and faithfully to observe and obey all such orders as I shall receive from time to time from my officers."

And be it further enacted, that no officer or soldier be arrested or prosecuted for any debt less than £50, lawful money, due to one creditor; and that every apprentice

who shall enlist into either of the said battalions and regiment, shall be entitled to, and receive, the whole of his bounty and wages.

It is voted and resolved, that the field officers, adjutants and captains, for the two state battalions, and regiment of artillery, ordered at this session to be raised, be chosen at this session; and that the other officers be chosen at the next session of this Assembly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that every officer now in the service of this state, and that shall be approved of by the field officers of the said battalions or regiment, and shall enlist twenty men by the next session of Assembly, shall then be appointed to the office he shall be approved of for, by the said field officers.

Both houses resolved into a grand committee, chose the following officers in the two battalions, and regiment of artillery, to wit:

Officers Chosen for the two Battalions and Regiment of Artillery.

Ezekiel Cornell, Esq., brigadier general.

Robert Elliot, Esq., colonel, of the regiment of artillery.

Archibald Crary, Esq., colonel, of the first battalion.

William Barton, Esq., colonel, of the second battalion.

John Topham, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the first battalion.

Nathaniel Hawkins, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second battalion.

Josiah Flagg, Esq., major, of the regiment of artillery.

James Williams, Esq., major, of the first battalion.

Joshua Sayer, John Garzia, Ebenezer Adams and Thomas Carlisle, captains, in the regiment of artillery.

Christopher Manchester, Caleb Carr, Benajah Whipple, John Carr, Reuben Ballou, James Parker, Thomas Allin and Abimelech Riggs, captains, in the first battalion.

Samuel Phillips, Christopher Dyer, Benjamin Hoppin,

Benjamin West, Peleg Hoxsie, Philip Traffan, William Whipple and Joshua Babcock, 2d, captains, in the second battalion.

John Handy, Esq., brigade major.

Robert Carver, adjutant, of the regiment of artillery.

Nathan Olney, adjutant, of the first battalion.

Charles Handy, Jr., adjutant, of the second battalion.

Whereas, the soldiers, serving in this state, who have been quartered in the college edifice, and other public buildings, have broken the windows, doors and floors of the same; and have done other mischief, to the great hurt and damage as well of the public as of individuals; and notwithstanding the frequent orders which have been issued by the Honorable General Spencer, to prevent the same, all the buildings where they are quartered, are marked with their devastations; wherefore—

It is resolved, that Major General Spencer be, and he is hereby, requested to take such effectual methods to prevent, for the future, any waste or destruction of the houses, barracks or buildings, where the soldiers are quartered, as to him shall appear best for the preservation thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that the soldiers who shall enlist into the brigade ordered by this Assembly to be raised, and to do duty until the 16th day of March, A. D. 1779, be mustered by Ezekiel Cornell, Esq., brigadier general thereof.

Whereas, there is a number of soldiers, now in the service of this state, without arms, and a much larger number now voted to be raised than is at this time in the field,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that General Cornell immediately apply to the several committees of safety for two hundred small arms and bayonets, and cause the same to be repaired, and fitted for immediate service.

That if the said number cannot be procured from the said committees, he, in that case, purchase the number deficient, upon the best terms he can, and as many other bayonets as

the state may require; and that he draw the money out of the general treasury, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war of this state call forth into actual duty, such part of the militia, independent and alarm companies, within this state, for the defence thereof, as they shall from time to time think necessary, in the order in which they have been draughted, to supply the delinqencies of the quotas to be furnished for the purpose aforesaid, by the states of the Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire and Connecticut, and in the proportion they shall be deficient therein.

It is further voted and resolved, that a bounty of £4, lawful money, for every month, and in that proportion for any shorter time, be allowed to each non-commissioned officer and private, who shall be called and do duty as aforesaid; and that the same bounty be allowed to all the non-commissioned officers and privates of the said militia, independent and alarm companies, who shall do duty from and after the rising of this Assembly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the officers and soldiers of the militia, independent and alarm companies, who may be called into actual service as aforesaid, be allowed the same wages and rations as the officers and soldiers in the Continental service.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
John Reynolds, for his commission for purchasing clothing for the state...	137	17	0
Samuel Andrews, for use of his lighter, for brick, &c.....	13	03	3
Mary Spencer, for amount paid by her for a substitute for her husband, drafted for the expedition against Rhode Island, $100.			
Othniel Gorton, for cost of tools for entrenchments, at Warwick Neck.....	4	10	0
Abraham Greene, for his attendance on the General Assembly, &c.....	4	13	0
Thomas Spencer, " " " " " "	1	04	0
John Northup, one of the committee of safety, authorized to draw out of the treasury	600	00	0
Edward Gorton, for his attendance on the General Assembly.....		18	0
Thomas Spencer, " " " " "	2	19	0

	£	s.	d.
Josias Lyndon, for expenses of horse hire and expenses, to attend the Assembly, at Providence	5	15	0
William Channing, for do., as assistant clerk to do.	4	05	6
John Sayles, Ebenezer Thompson, Esek Hopkins and Gideon Comstock, for their services as commissioners upon the court of inquiry into the causes of the failure of the late expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island	19	04	0
John Northup, one of the committee of safety, authorized to draw for	2,000	00	0
David Cotterell, for a saddle, impressed by order of Gen. Varnum	4	10	0
Joshua Babcock, for guns, bayonets and cartouch boxes, furnished by him for the use of the town of Westerly	200	00	0
Josias Lyndon, for his attendance as clerk to the Assembly, at their session at East Greenwich	6	02	6
William Channing, for do. as assistant clerk to do.	6	04	0

List of Public Acts Passed in 1777.

[The following public acts passed in the year 1777, will be found in the printed "Schedules" for that year.]

An Act establishing and regulating fees. (June.)

An Act in amendment of an act empowering justices to meet and hold a special court for the trial of offenders against the United States. (June.)

An Act to prevent the selling of goods at public vendue. (August.)

An Act to prevent distilling, into any kind of spirits whatever, Indian corn, rye, barley, oats or cider. (August.)

An Act assessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £32,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state. (August.)

An Act to prevent horse-racing. (September.)

An Act assessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £48,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of the state. (December.)

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the second Monday in February, 1778.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Christopher Ellery and Peleg Arnold be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to examine the clothing returned into the agent-clothier's store, for the use of the troops raised by this state, by either of the members of the committee of safety, or any other person; and that they make report, as soon as may be, to the council of war.

It is further voted and resolved, that the names of all such persons as have not subscribed the test, who are not members of the Society of Friends, and have not taken the affimation prescribed in an act for the relief of tender consciences, be taken out of the jury box; and that they be not permitted in future to serve as jurors, on any jury within this state.

It is further voted and resolved, that a copy hereof, be forthwith transmitted to the town clerks of the several towns within this state.

Whereas, from the present exhausted state of the treasury, it is impossible to supply the recruiting officers with a sufficient sum for said service, and discharge the present demands against the state, unless some method be adopted for the immediate supply thereof; and it appearing to this Assembly impracticable to hire the sum wanted; wherefore—

Resolved, that £53,000, part of a certain tax of £32,000, and one other tax of £48,000, heretofore assessed and levied upon the inhabitants of this state, for the purpose of

sinking the same, be borrowed out of the general treasury, for the space of four months from the rising of this Assembly, or a shorter time, if said sum can be sooner re-placed.

That as soon as the money which is due from the Continent to this state, is received, that the said sum which shall be borrowed and received, in pursuance of this resolve, be paid into the general treasury, and be sunk, agreeably to the intent and meaning of the acts of this Assembly, for assessing said sums on the inhabitants of this state; and that the money so borrowed, be applied to defray the necessary charges of the state.

It is voted and resolved, that William Channing, Esq., attorney general, Rowse J. Helme and Jabez Bowen, Esqrs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for prescribing and establishing an oath of fidelity and allegiance to this state; and that they report the same, as soon as may be.

Whereas, General Cornell hath represented unto this Assembly, that there is a number of cannon belonging to the state, that are rendered useless by reason of being burst and otherwise; and thereupon recommended to this Assembly, that they would appoint some suitable persons to take such cannon, and have them manufactured into two eight-inch howitzers, or otherwise, as they shall think proper,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Major Josiah Flagg be, and he is hereby, appointed to collect the above mentioned cannon, and have them manufactured into two eight-inch howitzers, as soon as may be, for the service of this state.

Whereas, General Cornell hath represented that there will be an absolute necessity for five hundred blankets this spring; and also for six hundred felt hats immediately,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., be, and he is hereby, directed to purchase the above articles as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the acts of this Assembly,

allowing a bounty on salt manufactured or imported within this state, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; and that said bounty be not allowed for salt heretofore manufactured or imported, unless the person who demands the same, shall, upon oath, declare that the same was manufactured out of salt water, within this state, or imported previous to the passing of this resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier within this state, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £10,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for purchasing such necessary clothing as is directed by a resolve of Congress, to be purchased and disposed of to the officers commanding the troops raised by this state; and that said money be appropriated to purchase the blankets and hats, ordered at this session to be procured, as well as the necessary clothing above mentioned.

It is voted and resolved, that the four companies in the regiment of artillery be divided into five companies, which shall consist of the same number of officers as were assigned to the said four companies.

Both houses being resolved in a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, viz.:

Officers Chosen for the Militia.

IN COL. ELLIOTT'S REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

George Richards, quartermaster.

Gideon Westcoat, second captain.

Nathaniel Gladding, captain-lieutenant, in Capt. Sayer's company.

Samuel Snow, captain-lieutenant, in Captain Carlile's company.

Isaac Pitman, captain-lieutenant, in Captain Westcoat's company.

John Warner, captain-lieutenant, in Captain Garzia's company.

Christopher Robinson, captain-lieutenant, in Captain Adams's company.

Seth Barton, first lieutenant, in Capt. Carlile's company.

William Badger, first lieutenant, in Captain Westcoat's company.

William Page, first lieutenant, in Captain Garzia's company.

Squire Howe, first lieutenant, in Captain Adams's company.

Edward Price, second lieutenant, in Captain Sayer's company.

Benjamin Pitt, second lieutenant, in Captain Carlile's company.

John Cleveland, second lieutenant, in Captain Westcoat's company.

Oliver Corey, second lieutenant, in Captain Garzia's company.

Champlin Lamphere, second lieutenant, in Capt. Adams's company.

IN COL. CRARY'S BATTALION.

Captains—Nathan Olney, Philip Morse and William Lawless.

First lieutenants—Philip Palmer, Rufus Barton, Benjamin Stewart Wallcutt, Caleb Matthews, Daniel Sheldon, James Potter, Nathaniel Humphreys and Eleazer Randall.

Second lieutenants—Benjamin Willcox, Simeon Dexter, Joseph Chase, Elijah Armstrong, Samuel Northup, William Richmond Wares, Thomas Smith (son of John) and Israel Stoddard, Jr.

Daniel Singer Dexter, adjutant.

Abraham Andrews, quartermaster.

Whereas, this Assembly did heretofore appoint William Barton, Esq., colonel of the second battalion ordered to be raised within this state; and whereas, the said William

Barton, Esq., hath, since his appointment, as aforesaid, been named and chosen a colonel in the Continental service, by the Honorable Continental Congress; whereby the said second battalion is destitute of a colonel; the place being vacant by the promotion of the said William Barton, as aforesaid,—

Wherefore, John Topham, Esq., is chosen colonel, of the second battalion.

Samuel Phillips, Esq., major, of Col. Topham's battalion.

James Williams, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of Col. Crary's battalion.

Christopher Manchester, Esq., major, in the same battalion.

Abraham Tourtellott, captain, in the same battalion.

OTHER OFFICERS IN COL. TOPHAM'S BATTALION.

Captain—Alexander Thomas.

First lieutenants—James Miller, John Welch, Barber Peckham, William Dyer, Clarke Parker, Richmond Springer, Andrew Stanton and Joseph Springer.

Second lieutenants—Amos Frink, Lebeus Cotterell, Chas. Hewitt, John Miller, Elias Jackson, William Helme, Timothy West and Daniel Wall.

Quartermaster—James Bliven.

Captain Malichi Hammet, is, at his request, dismissed from his command.

Pursuant to a resolution of Congress, of the 13th of January last, Solomon Southwick, Esq., is appointed deputy commissary general of issues, within this state.

The following persons are appointed to hear petitions, and make report thereon, viz.:

Nathaniel Searle, Jr., Esq., for the county of Newport.

John Dexter, Esq., for the county of Providence.

Edward Perry, Esq., far the county of Kings.

Josiah Humphrey, Esq., for the county of Bristol.

Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., for the county of Kent.

Whereas, the troops who are stationed in the towns of South and North Kingstown, are put to great inconvenience for want of a due and sufficient supply of wood; and whereas, the proprietors of the wood-lands, contiguous to where the troops are quartered, do not willingly supply them with such quantities of wood as is necessary; and as it is highly reasonable that each person, who is a proprietor of wood, should furnish his quota according to a just proportion,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the proprietors or tenants of the wood-lands in South and North Kingstown, which are near the vicinity of where the troops are quartered, forthwith assemble, and make and assess upon themselves, a just proportion of wood; and deliver the same unto said troops in such manner as that there may be no want thereof.

And it is further voted and resolved, that if the said inhabitants shall refuse or neglect immediately, upon notice hereof, to conform thereto, that Brigadier General Cornell cause the deputy quartermaster general, in said department, to cut off from said wood-lands a sufficient quantity for the use aforesaid, in such manner as the said brigadier general shall direct.

And that the said deputy quartermaster general be, and he is hereby, empowered to impress teams for the purpose of carting the same; using his discretion that the inhabitants in the vicinity be equally called upon, according to their several abilities; anything to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable William Bradford and Jabez Bowen, Esqs., and Col. Christopher Lippitt, be, and they are hereby, appointed to examine into the state and usefulness of the general hospital within this state; and if in their opinions it should be necessary to continue said hospital, that they determine the number of officers for the same, and their pay; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

Whereas, there is now upon the lands lying in North Kingstown, lately belonging to Doct. Thomas Moffatt and Gervas Elam, a very considerable quantity of wood, which is wanted for the use of the troops stationed in said North Kingstown and South Kingstown; wherefore—

Resolved, that Peter Phillips and Sylvester Gardner, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed to give directions unto the deputy assistant-quartermaster general, to cut and cart from time to time such quantities of wood from the said lands, as they shall think prudent, for the supply of the said troops; and that the deputy quartermaster general cause the same to be exactly measured, and an account taken and given in to the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that His Excellency the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to make and give under his hand, the following certificate:

Certificate of the Governor of Rhode Island to Colonel William Barton.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, }
February 14th, 1778. }

This certifies, that the General Assembly, at the December session, 1777, appointed William Barton, Esq., colonel of a regiment ordered to be raised for twelve months, for the defence of the United States in general, and of the state aforesaid, in particular.

That, at the session held in February instant, Col. Barton informed the Assembly that he had an appointment from the Most Honorable the Continental Congress, with the rank and pay of colonel, but at present without command; and that being most ardently desirous of exerting his utmost abilities against the common enemy, he was willing, provided he could obtain permission of His Excellency General Washington, to command the said regiment, upon his pay from the Continent only; by which means he should also be freed from the disagreeable situation of receiving the public money without being in actual service.

And that the Assembly taking the same into consideration, voted that Col. Barton having received a Continental appointment, and being liable to be called from the command of said regiment, and the service of this state, upon the shortest noiicce, did thereby vacate his office in said brigade; and then appointed Col. Topham to the command of said regiment.

Whereas, for the preservation of the rights and liberties of the United States, it is necessary that the whole powers of government should be exerted in recruiting the Conti-

nental battalions; and whereas, His Excellency Gen. Washington hath enclosed to this state a proposal made to him by Brigadier General Varnum, to enlist into the two battalions, raising by this state, such slaves as should be willing to enter into the service; and whereas, history affords us frequent precedents of the wisest, the freest, and bravest nations having liberated their slaves, and enlisted them as soldiers to fight in defence of their country; and also whereas, the enemy, with a great force, have taken possession of the capital, and of a greater part of this state; and this state is obliged to raise a very considerable number of troops for its own immediate defence, whereby it is in a manner rendered impossible for this state to furnish recruits for the said two battalions, without adopting the said measure so recommended.

It is voted and resolved, that every able-bodied negro, mulatto, or Indian man slave, in this state, may enlist into either of the said two battalions, to serve during the continuance of the present war with Great Britain.

That every slave, so enlisting, shall be entitled to, and receive, all the bounties, wages, and encouragements, allowed by the Continental Congress, to any soldier enlisting into their service.

It is further voted and resolved, that every slave, so enlisting, shall, upon his passing muster before Col. Christopher Greene, be immediately discharged from the service of his master or mistress, and be absolutely FREE, as though he had never been encumbered with any kind of servitude or slavery.

And in case such slave shall, by sickness or otherwise, be rendered unable to maintain himself, he shall not be chargeable to his master or mistress; but shall be supported at the expense of the state.

And whereas, slaves have been, by the laws, deemed the property of their owners, and therefore compensation ought to be made to the owners for the loss of their service,—

It is further voted and resolved, that there be allowed,

and paid by this state, to the owner, for every such slave so enlisting, a sum according to his worth; at a price not exceeding £120 for the most valuable slave; and in proportion for a slave of less value.

Provided, the owner of said slave shall deliver up to the officer, who shall enlist him, the clothes of the said slave; or otherwise he shall not be entitled to said sum.

And for settling and ascertaining the value of such slaves,—

It is further voted and resolved, that a committee of five be appointed, to wit:

One from each county; any three of whom, to be a quorum, to examine the slaves who shall be so enlisted, after they shall have passed muster, and to set a price upon each slave according to his value, as aforesaid.

It is further voted and resolved, that upon any able-bodied negro, mulatto, or Indian slave, enlisting as aforesaid, the officer who shall so enlist him, after he shall have passed muster, as aforesaid, shall deliver a certificate thereof, to the master or mistress of said negro, mulatto, or Indian slave; which shall discharge him from the service of his said master or mistress, as aforesaid.

It is further voted and resolved, that the committee who shall estimate the value of any slave, as aforesaid, shall give a certificate of the sum at which he may be valued, to the owner of said slave; and the general treasurer of this state is hereby empowered and directed to give unto the said owner of the said slave, his promissory note, as treasurer, as aforesaid, for the sum of money at which he shall be valued, as aforesaid, payable on demand, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum; and that said notes, which shall be so given, shall be paid with the money which is due to this state, and is expected from Congress; the money which has been borrowed out of the general treasury, by this Assembly, being first re-placed.

Protest against Enlisting Slaves to Serve in the Army.

We, the subscribers, beg leave to dissent from the vote of the lower house, ordering a regiment of negroes to be raised for the Continental service, for the following reasons, viz..

1st. Because, in our opinion, there is not a sufficient number of negroes in the state, who would have an inclination to enlist, and would pass muster, to constitute a regiment; and raising several companies of blacks, would not answer the purposes intended; and therefore the attempt to constitute said regiment would prove abortive, and be a fruitless expense to the state.

2d. The raising such a regiment, upon the footing proposed, would suggest an idea and produce an opinion in the world, that the state had purchased a band of slaves to be employed in the defence of the rights and liberties of our country, which is wholly inconsistent with those principles of liberty and constitutional government, for which we are so ardently contending; and would be looked upon by the neighboring states in a contemptible point of view, and not equal to their troops; and they would therefore be unwilling that we should have credit for them, as for an equal number of white troops; and would also give occasion to our enemies to suspect that we are not able to procure our own people to oppose them in the field; and to retort upon us the same kind of ridicule we so liberally bestowed upon them, on account of Dunmore's regiment of blacks; or possibly might suggest to them the idea of employing black regiments against us.

3d. The expense of purchasing and enlisting said regiment, in the manner proposed, will vastly exceed the expenses of raising an equal number of white men; and at the same time will not have the like good effect.

4th. Great difficulties and uneasiness will arise in purchasing the negroes from their masters; and many of the masters will not be satisfied with any prices allowed.

JOHN NORTHUP,	GEORGE PEIRCE,
JAMES BABCOK, JR.,	SYLVESTER GARDNER,
OTHNIEL GORTON,	SAMUEL BABCOCK.

Whereas, William Greene and Jabez Bowen, Esqs., who were appointed commissioners, on the part of this state, to meet commissioners from divers others of the United States, at New Haven, pursuant to a resolution of the Most Honorable the Continental Congress of the 22d of November last, reported to this Assembly a copy of the proceedings of the said commissioners; which being read and considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted.

That the said William Greene and Jabez Bowen, together with Col. Christopher Lippitt, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for regulating and ascertaining the price of labor, &c., agreeably to the said report.

That they regulate and ascertain the prices of all goods, &c. (salt only excepted), which are not excepted by the said resolve of Congress, and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Cahoone, Henry Ward and Thomas Rumreil, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draw instructions for the delegates in Congress, respecting the articles of confederacy proposed to this Assembly by Congress, for their consideration and approbation; and that the said committee also draw instructions, with full powers, to the delegates, to accede to the confederacy.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, that the provisions which have been issued to the troops stationed in North Kingstown, are unfit for use; and as it is of the highest importance that good and wholesome provisions should be issued to the soldiery,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Ezekiel Cornell, Esq., brigadier general, be, and he is hereby, appointed forthwith to proceed to North Kingstown, and examine the provisions that are in the stores, which are to be issued for the use of said troops, and see that the same are good and fit for use.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said Gen. Cornell be, and he is hereby, directed and empowered to purchase such quantities of good provisions as are necessary; and cause the same to be issued to the said soldiers, until the commissary can provide for them; and that the money for the purchase thereof, be drawn by the said Gen. Cornell, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Gideon Hoxsie, Jabez Bowen, Job Comstock, Josiah Humphrey and Wm. Richmond, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draft a bill for taking a general estimate throughout this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Thomas Rumreil, Christopher Lippitt, Samuel Babcock, Thomas Tillinghast

and Josiah Humphrey be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to estimate the value of the slaves who may enlist into the Continental battalions, agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly.

Whereas, the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., has been, by a resolution of this Assembly, appointed to lease the farms heretofore taken possession of, in behalf of this state,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the sheriffs of the several counties within this state, be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to put into the possession of the said estates within their respective counties, the persons who may hire the same, agreeably to said resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that the real estate in Little Compton, in the possession of James Chace, Jr., belonging to James Chace, now on the island of Rhode Island, be taken possession of in behalf of this state, by the sheriff or his deputy, for the county of Newport.

That the real estate in Scituate, in the possession of Fleet Brown, belonging to Charles Wickham, who is also on said island, be taken possession of by the sheriff for the county of Providence.

That said estates be leased by His Honor the Deputy Governor, for produce, at a public vendue, to the highest bidder.

That the sheriff for the county of Kings, be directed to demand and receive from Thomas Cutter, late of North Kingstown, all the estate, both real and personal, now in his possession, belonging to Adam Ferguson, now on said island.

That the said real estate be rented in manner as is before directed; and that the sheriff render an account of the personal estate which may be by him received, to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Christopher Greene be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £300, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for paying the bounties of the

slaves, who are permitted, by a resolution of this Assembly, to enlist into the Continental battalions.

Whereas, a very considerable number of small arms, belonging to the Continent, were, by General Spencer, delivered out to the generals and colonels, commanding brigades, for the use of the troops who were destined for the attack on Rhode Island; who delivered out many of them to the officers commanding the militia, and other officers in the fifteen months' brigade, within this state; and whereas, the said guns have never been returned, and the said officers are now out of service, and neglect to collect the same,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Brigadier General Ezekiel Cornell be, and he is hereby, fully empowered, authorized and directed to collect the said guns, and return the same to General Spencer,—

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said Gen. Cornell be, and he is hereby, empowered to call courts martial upon any and every person who received the same; and proceed against them, with the powers of law martial, in the same manner as though the said persons were now in actual military service.

It is voted and resolved, that the following instructions be, and they are hereby, given to the delegates appointed to represent this state in Congress, to wit:

Instructions to the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery and Henry Marchant, Esqs., Delegates from Rhode Island in Congress, respecting the proposed Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the Thirteen United States.

1st. By the fifth article, no state can be represented by less than two members. As it will be inconvenient and burthensome for the small states to keep in Congress more than two or three members, it may happen from sickness, death, or some other unavoidable accident, that such state may have not more than one member present in Congress; and thereby be deprived of a voice, which may be highly prejudicial. You are therefore instructed to move in Congress for an alteration in that article; so that in case by sickness, death, or any other unavoidable accident, but one of the members of a state can attend Congress, such state may be represented in Congress by one

member, for such reasonable space of time as shall be agreed upon by Congress, and ascertained by the articles of confederation.

2d. Taxes ought to be assessed equally; and nothing will have a greater tendency to induce freemen to submit to heavy burthens, than an opinion that they are justly proportioned; and as very material alterations may happen in the abilities of the different states to pay taxes in the course of a few years, you are instructed to move in Congress for the following addition to the eighth article: "That such estimate be taken and made once in every five years, at least."

3d. The King of Great Britain, before the present war, was vested with the property of great quantities of land; and enjoyed large revenues arising from quit-rents within the United States. By commencing and carrying on this unnatural war, with the avowed design of reducing the United States to the most debasing and ignominious servitude, that crown hath justly forfeited such lands and revenues. If the forfeiture takes place, it will be in consequence of the exertions of all the United States, by whom the war is supported. Consequently, all the United States ought to be proportionably benefitted by the forfeiture. But should the several states in which such lands lie, and revenues are raised, appropriate them to their separate use, they will at the end of the war, be possessed of great funds to reimburse themselves their expenses; while those states which are not in that situation, although at a proportionable expense of blood and treasure, in reeovering such forfeiture, not receiving any benefit therefrom, will be left to struggle with an immense debt, which is unequal and unjust. The claim of the crown of Great Britain to such lands and revenues, was uncontested before the present war; none of the states having formed any pretensions thereto, which is another cogent argument why the forfeiture ought to be vested all the United States. Omitting many things which your attention to this important object will suggest to you, it is proper to observe that Congress have promised lands to the army; and that, unless they be provided out of such forfeiture, several of the states, and this in particular, will be in a very unhappy predicament. You are therefore instructed to move in Congress that it be inserted in the articles of confederation, that all such lands and revenues be forfeited to the United States, to be disposed of, and appropriated by Congress, for the benefit of the whole confederacy. It is not meant, by this instruction, that Congress should claim the jurisdiction of the forfeited lands; but that the same should remain to the state in which it lies.

4th. Although this Assembly deem the amendments and alterations herein proposed, of very great importance, yet the completion of the union, is so indispensably necessary, that you are instructed, after having used your utmost influence to procure them to be made, in case they should be rejected, not to decline acceding, on the part of this state, to the articles of confederation; taking care that these proposed amendments and alerations be previously entered upon the records of the Congress, that it may appear they were made before the signing of the confederation; and that this state intends hereafter to renew the motion for them. This Assembly, trusting that Congress, at some future time, convinced of their utility and justice, will adopt them; and that they will be confirmed by all the states.

It is further voted and resolved, that an exemplification of this act be made and transmitted by the secretary, to the delegates appointed to represent this state in Congress, who are indispensably to observe and follow the said instructions.

This Assembly having taken into consideration the articles of confederation and perpetual union between the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, transmitted by Congress to this state; and having had them repeatedly read, and having maturely weighed, and most seriously deliberated upon them, as their importance to this and the other states, and to posterity, deserves; and considering also the pressing necessity of completing the union, as a measure essential to the preservation of the independence and safety of the said states,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., William Ellery, Esq., and Henry Marchant, Esq., the delegates to represent this state in Congress, or any one of them, be, and they are hereby, fully authorized and empowered, on the part and behalf of this state, to accede to and sign the said articles of confederation and perpetual union, in such solemn form and manner, as Congress shall think best adapted to a transaction so important to the present and future generations; provided, that the same be acceded to by eight of the other states.

And in case any alterations in, or additions to, the said articles of confederation and perpetual union, shall be made by nine of the said states, in Congress assembled, that the said delegates, or any one of them, be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered, in like manner, to accede to and sign the said articles of confederation and perpetual union, with the alterations and additions which shall be so made.

It is further voted and resolved, that this Assembly will, and do hereby, in behalf of the said state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in the most solemn manner, pledge the faith of the said state to hold and consider the acts of the said delegates, or any one of them, in so acceding

to and signing the said articles of confederation and perpetual union, as valid and binding upon the said state in all future time.

And it is further voted and resolved, that a fair copy of this act be made, and authenticated under the public seal of this state, with the signature of His Excellency the Governor, and be transmitted to said delegates; and that the same shall be sufficient warrant and authority to the said delegates, or any one of them, for the purposes aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Henry Marchant, Esq., be, and he is hereby, requested to give his attendance on Congress by the 20th of March next.

That when a report shall be made by the several legislatures, of the articles of confederation proposed to them by Congress, he may, with our other delegate, procure such alterations therein, as are agreeable to the instructions given them by this Assembly.

It is further voted and resolved, that a copy hereof, with an exemplification of said instructions, be transmitted to the said Henry Marchant, Esq., that he may proceed therewith, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that Holmes Wightman be, and he is hereby, permitted to return to his house and family in North Kingstown, to reside there; he behaving himself as a good and faithful subject of this state ought to do; any former vote to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Whereas, a considerable sum of Continental money is immediately wanted, for the purchasing of the clothes, &c., ordered to be furnished the officers commanding the Continental troops raised by this state; and whereas, £3,966, lawful money, can be borrowed for the purpose, aforesaid, from Peter Phillips, Esq.; and £450, lawful money, from John Reynolds, Esq.; and £300 will be exchanged for the money of this state, by Mr. Othniel Gorton; wherefore—

Resolved, that said sum be exchanged; and that the other sums be borrowed; and that the same be re-paid in Conti-

tinental money, with interest out of the general treasury, as soon as may be.

The committee appointed to prepare a bill for establishing an oath of allegiance to this state, having reported the draught of a bill for that purpose,—

It is voted and resolved, that the consideration thereof, be referred to the next session.

That a copy of the same be inserted in the next Providence Gazette; and that one of the newspapers, containing it, be transmitted to each of the town clerks in this state; who are hereby empowered to call town meetings, to consider the said bill, that the sentiments of the freemen thereon, may be made known to this Assembly.

Whereas, it is represented to this Assembly, that Samuel Boone, William Boone, John Wightman (son of Valentine), Ephraim Smith, Ebenezer Slocum, Charles Slocum and Thomas Cutter, have gone to the island of Rhode Island, and have joined the enemy; wherefore—

Resolved, that if the aforenamed persons have absented themselves, that the sheriff for the county of Kings, forthwith take possession of their real and personal estates, in behalf of this state.

That their real estates, if any they have, be leased by His Honor the Deputy Governor, in the manner in which other estates, in the possession of the state, have been directed to be leased; and that the personal estate be accounted for, by the said sheriff, with this Assembly.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Richard Aylsworth, for sundry services in the state house, in East Greenwich	1	05	6
Anthony Holden, for subsisting prisoners in Kent county jail	2	05	4
John Northup, one of the committee of safety, authorized to draw on the treasury, for	500	00	0

	£	s.	d.
James Rhodes, for repairs of Pawtuxet Bridge	13	01	9
Job Comstock, for twelve pair of yarn stockings furnished for the use of the army	15	02	4
Dr. Peck Whipple, for assistance rendered to the director of the hospital	4	00	0
Henry Marchant, expenses of himself, servant and horses to Philadelphia, as a delegate to Congress	103	12	0
Timothy Lock, for carrying express	3	12	0
Benjamin Fry, for the use of his horse for two soldiers sick with the small pox; and for pursuing tories through Kings county to Providence	4	04	0
Josias Lyndon, for attendance on the General Assembly, as clerk	4	07	0
Thomas Spencer, for attendance, &c., upon the General Assembly, at East Greenwich	4	13	0
William Channing, for attendance upon the General Assembly, as assistant clerk	3	18	0
William Vincent, for material and labor furnished in repairing Pawtucket Bridge	61	02	0
Abraham Greene, for attendance, &c., upon the General Assembly, at East Greenwich	3	18	0
Jabez Bowen, for horse hire and expenses to New Haven, as one of the commissioners of this state	52	12	8
William Greene, for his expenses and services as a commissioner from this state, to New Haven	68	18	0

God save the United States of America.

Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress, to William Greene, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Rhode Island.

Yorktown, 23d December, 1777.

Hon. Mr. Speaker:

Sir:—I am directed by Congress to transmit to your honorable body, the enclosed resolutions, which the pressing wants of the army, and the arts and avarice of engrossers and extortioners have rendered indispensably necessary to the general welfare.

It is with deep concern, that Congress, after having for some time contemplated in painful silence, the mischiefs which threaten this extended continent, from the growing avarice of the times, feel themselves constrained to recommend measures, which the virtue of all classes of men rendered not long since unnecessary; and which a scrupulous regard for the security of property to every citizen of these states, has hitherto restrained them from adopting; but (unhappy the case of America,) laws unworthy the character of infant republics, are become necessary, to supply the defect of public virtue, and to correct the vices of some of her sons; and she is called upon by the grand principle of self-preservation, to guard against the parricide of those whom she has fostered in her own bosom.

To minds, whose reflections are employed on the importance of the cause in which we are engaged, and which feel for every circumstance which may affect the honor and safety of these states, it might give the most painful sensations to consider that, at a time, when the late signal successes we have been blest with, the reduced numbers of the enemy, the difficulties they meet with in procuring foreign levies, and the political complexion of affairs in Europe, have deprived Britain of many of those resources, on

which she has so much depended; when the numbers and improving discipline of our army, the prodigious augmentation of our military stores, the quantity of provisions, with which this country abounds, and the large supplies of clothing, which have of late been imported by private persons, afford not only the opportunity but the means, under Divine Providence, of establishing our liberties by a few exertions, this bright prospect should be clouded over, and this great and glorious event endangered by the languor of too many, and by the arts and avarice of designing individuals; who, like the British nabobs of the East, are corrupting the manners of a whole nation, and building vast fortunes on the destruction of the liberties of the Western world.

It is be hoped, however, that the wise and spirited laws of the different states, aided by the influence and exertions of the real patriots, will apply effectual remedies to these alarming evils; that the old and hardened offenders will be punished; that those in whose bosoms the sparks of public virtue are not yet extinguished, will be reclaimed; the languid roused from their present apathy; and that all classes of men will unite with their former spirit and virtue against an enemy, whose progress is marked with every vestige of barbarity, and whose determined object is to establish a tyranny of the most dangerous and debasing nature, over the inhabitants of a vast continent.

Congress flatter themselves that the resolutions herewith tranamitted, will tend to accomplish some of these valuable purposes; and they therefore esteem it their duty to recommend them to the serious consideration of your honorable house, and hope they will be carried into execution, as expeditiously and secretly as possible.

By order of Congress:

HENRY LAURENS, President.

To the Honorable the Speaker of the lower House of Assembly, of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Providence.

Henry Laurens to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Yorktown, 3d January, 1778.

Sir:—Since my last of the 23d of December, I have had the honor of your favor of the 8th November, which had been a very long time on its passage; it reached me no sooner than the 31st December; and although I presented it immediately to Congress, no order has been made upon it.

The house have been for many days past laboriously engaged not only in matters of the very highest importance within their proper sphere, but also obliged from some unaccountable deficiency in the several departments of quartermaster general, clothier general and commissary general, to interfere immediately and personally in the procuring of wagons, clothing, meat and flour for the army; which otherwise, from all appearance, and from the representation of the general, would have been dispersed. The deplorable state of the hospitals has likewise demanded the same attention. These burdens, which may truly be marked as extraordinary and unreasonable, fall heavy upon a very few members, from seventeen to twenty one, who faithfully attend their duty at the expense of domestic happiness and the improvement of their private estates.

Your Excellency, from a consideration of these circumstances, will account for what might in a time of more regularity and tranquillity, be deemed a neglect of your very interesting and affecting address; and I beg you will be assured, sir, I will embrace the earliest proper opening for bringing the state of Rhode Island into view again.

Enclosed, Your Excellency will receive an act of Congress, of the 31st ult., for promoting a speedy reformation in the army, which you will be pleased to lay before the Council.

Also a letter directed to Capt. Esek Hopkins, containing an act of Congress, dated

yesterday, by which he is dismissed from the service of these states; I have sent the letter, under a flying seal, for Your Excellency's perusal; and that you may cause the resolve to be made public, and particularly notified to all Continental officers heretofore subject to Capt Hopkins's command; you will, after such measures are affected, be pleased to close the letter, and order it to be carefully delivered.

I have the honor to be, with great regard, sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

HENRY LAURENS, President of Congress.

To His Excellency Governor Cooke, Rhode Island, &c.

Henry Laurens to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Yorktown, 14th January, 1778.

Sir:—Your Excellency's letter, dated in Council of War, 8th November, did not reach me till the 31st December. I immediately reported to Congress, and the contents have been duly considered.

I have in charge to transmit you an act of Gongress, of the 13th inst., recommending to the Eastern states to keep up the army stationed for the defence of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; and for divers other purposes, which Congress hope will prove beneficial to the state. Your Excellency will receive the act under cover with this, and to which I beg leave to refer. Congress are in no doubt but that from the quantity of clothing which has lately been imported into Massachusetts and New Hampshire, you have made the necessary provision for your Continental battalions.

Your Excellency will also find enclosed a very solemn and important act of Congress dated 8th inst., for suspending the embarkation of Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne, and his troops, until the convention of Saratoga shall be distinctly and explicitly ratified by the court of Great Britain, and properly notified to Congress. A measure which Congress hold to be equally justifiable and necessary, and are therefore confident their resolutions will be confirmed by the approbation of all their constituents in the United States, and that the justice and good policy of the act will be acknowledged by every disinterested court in Europe.

I have the honor to be, with great regard, sir,

Your obedient and humble servant,

HENRY LAURENS, President of Congress.

To His Excellency, Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Providence.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on Monday, the 9th day of March, 1778.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Governor.
The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Simon Smith, Stephen Congdon and Ezekiel Austin, be permitted to subscribe the test, heretofore ordered to be subscribed by the inhabitants of this state, before either house of Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that David Austin be, and he is hereby, permitted to remove three tons of hay from off the farm leased him the last year by this state.

Whereas, David Shearman, James Whitehorn, John Albro, Jr., and Clarke Albro, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that not having occasion to transact much business, they have hitherto omitted to subscribe the test prescribed by law in this state, not thinking but that they might have liberty to sign the same whenever they should have occasion so to do; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant them liberty to subscribe the said test; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the aforegoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the petitioners, together with Eleazer Trevett, Benjamin Perry, Samuel Helme, Daniel Tefft, 3d, Job Hawkins and Robert Shearman, be, and they are hereby, permitted to subscribe the said test, before either of the justices of the superior or inferior courts within this state.

Whereas, the time for collecting the tax of £48,000, lawful money, heretofore assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, hath expired,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said time be lengthened; and that the collectors of taxes, in the several towns, be allowed twenty days after the rising of this Assembly, to collect and pay the same into the general treasury; and the general treasurer is directed to issue executions against the town treasurers of the towns who may be delinquent, immediately after the expiration thereof.

Whereas, the Hon. John Foster, Esq., judge of the maritime court in this state, preferred a memorial, and represented unto this Assembly, that the council of war have recommended it to him to tax an account respecting the capture of the ship Syren, in the bill of cost; but that they have not ordered and directed him to do it.

That he is willing and desirous to pay all due respect to the council of war; but as they have not ordered him to do so singular a thing, there being no law either for or against doing it, and he considers himself only as the servant of the General Assembly, and cannot pretend to any authority but what he receives from them; and as the said account amounts to so large a sum, he therefore humbly prays this Assembly to direct and order whether the amount of the said account shall be taxed in the said bill, and deducted out of the amount of the sales of the ship Syren, for the use of this state, before any distribution be made to the captors or not; this Assembly having relinquished all their claims to the said prizes, or any part thereof, do, on consideration of the said memorial,—

Vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the judge of the maritime court, in this state, be, and he is hereby, ordered and directed, to tax the amount of the said account, being £470 8*s.* 9*d.*, in the bill of cost, against the said ship Syren; and that the same be deducted from the amount of the sales previous to any distribution made to the captors; this state having relinquished all their claims to the said prizes, or any part thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war be empowered to dispose of the cannon at Bedford; and such

other cannon, belonging to the state, as in their opinion may not be necessary for the service of the state.

Whereas, Mr. Joseph Ballou, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that by the assistance of several skilful miners, he hath discovered a silver mine in his land in Cumberland.

That by a trial already made, it appears to be very valuable.

That there will be great expense in opening the same; and that without assistance, he is not able to carry on such an undertaking; which, when erected, will prove of singular use to the United States in general, and to this state in particular; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him liberty to set forth a lottery, to raise the sum of £3,000, lawful money, to be appropriated for the purpose of opening the said silver mine; upon which condition, he doth promise and engage, that this state shall have and receive the one-fifth part of the said mine, upon being at that proportion of the expense, after the said mine shall be opened as aforesaid; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Jabez Bowen, Jonathan Arnold and Esek Hopkins, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to take into consideration the aforegoing petition; to go upon the ground where it is supposed the said mine hath been discovered; and to make proper examination and inquiry respecting the circumstances of the same, and probability of success; and that they make report to this Assembly.

Whereas, Benjamin Slack, Daniel Manton, Edward Fenner, Caleb Harris and William Potter, commissioned officers of the troop of horse, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that influenced by the purest motives of regard and love for the safety, honor and happiness of their country, at a time when invaded by a numerous and powerful enemy, in the year 1775, they, with others now belonging to the said troop, formed the design of establishing a troop of horse for the defence of the country.

That this Assembly granted them a charter, with the powers and privileges therein contained.

That in consequence thereof, and that they might not be unworthy of the favors therein granted, they have been at a very great expense in keeping suitable horses and military equipage, always ready at a moment's warning to go upon immediate duty.

That they have always fully performed every thing required of them by their charter; not doubting but that the privileges and honors therein contained, would be fully preserved upon them.

That their horses, which are the best in the country, have been in the service of the public, in going expresses, &c., at only two shillings per day expense to the state.

That in the late intended expedition upon Rhode Island, one-half of the said troop was on duty.

That the use of their horses and necessary expenses, have always exceeded their wages.

And that, notwithstanding the privileges in their charter, doubts have arisen whether they are entitled to the same payment as officers of foot of the same rank, in the militia; upon which account, payment for their services in the said expedition hath been delayed.

And thereupon, they prayed this Assembly to take the premises into consideration, and to order that such of them as have been in the service of the state at any time heretofore, and have not been paid, be allowed and paid the same wages as have been allowed to officers of the same rank in the militia regiments of foot, which they conceive themselves clearly entitled to, by their charter; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Christopher Lippitt, Gideon Comstock, Esq., and Major Sylvester Gardner, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to take into consideration the aforegoing petition; and that they make report thereof to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the oil in the possession of

Mr. Martin Luther, which was delivered him by Jacob Isaacs of Newport, be taken possession of by the sheriff for the county of Bristol, in behalf of this state; that he make report to the council of war within ten days after the rising of this Assembly; and that the same be disposed of under their direction.

It is voted and resolved, that the masters of all negro slaves, who are bound out as apprentices, that already have enlisted, or shall enlist into the Continental service, shall be entitled to receive out of the general treasury the annual interest of the sum the said slaves shall be appraised at, until the expiration of their apprenticeships; and that the money remain in the treasury until the expiration of the said apprenticeships, and then be paid to the owner without interest.

It is voted and resolved, that Walter Clarke, of Richmond, Peter Smith, of South Kingstown and Samuel Underwood, of Exeter, be allowed and permitted to subscribe the test prescribed by this state; and thereupon they shall be entitled to all the benefits and advantages thereby arising to the subjects of this state, in as full a manner as though the same had been subscribed by them at any time heretofore.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor be, and he is hereby, empowered to receive the back rents due for the farms taken possession of in behalf of this state; and that he pay the same into the general treasury.

Whereas, Henry Marchant, Esq., as delegate for this state, in the Continental Congress, was required by this Assembly, at their last session, to proceed to Congress, so as to join that body by the 20th of March,—

It is voted and resolved, that the reasons offered by him for not proceeding, are satisfactory, and that this Assembly approve of his conduct therein.

Whereas, the Most Honorable the Continental Congress did, on the 22d of November last, pass the following resolution to wit:

Resolution of Congress relative to Supplies for the War to be furnished by the several States.

"Whereas, great advantages have arisen from the establishment of Continental loan offices, on which Congress continue to place great dependence; in order, therefore, as far as it is practicable, to ascertain the supplies for the war, which may be raised in the several states, upon loan office certificates,—

Resolved, that it be recommended to the legislatures, or in the recess of any of them, to the executive authority of the respective states, to cause subscriptions to be opened, under the inspection of one or more respectable citizens within each town or district, specifying the names of the lenders, and the sums they are willing to lend; and that a copy of such subscription papers shall, from time to time, be sent to the respective commissioners of the said loan offices, and by them transmitted to Congress; provided, that no certificate shall issue for less than $200."

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, That the following persons be appointed for the purpose, aforesaid, to wit:

His Honor the Deputy Governor, Messrs. Thomas Rumreil, John Brown, James Rhodes, Joshua Babcock, John Northup, Samuel Babcock, Thomas Tillinghast, John Sayles, Timothy Hopkins, Asa Kimball, Gideon Hoxsie, Thomas Gorton, Elihu Greene, Pardon Tillinghast, Pardon Gray, Nathaniel Searle, Jr., Cromel Child, James Lovett, Edward Perry, Christopher Lippitt, George Thurston, Caleb Harris, Stephen Jenckes and Josiah Humphrey.

It is further voted and resolved, that they make report of their doings to this Assembly, at the next session; and that a copy hereof, be sent to each of the above named persons.

An Act in addition to, and amendment of, an act passed the last session of this Assembly, for assessing a tax of £32,000.

[See printed Schedule for the act.]

It is voted and resolved, that General Cornell be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to make such repairs on the house in North Kingstown, belonging to William Greene, Esq., which hath been made use of, and is further

wanted, as a guard-house, as may be necessary for accommodating the soldiers who may be quartered in the same.

It is voted and resolved, that John Collins, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed and required, to proceed to Congress, with the accounts of this state against the United States; there to confer with the delegate or delegates of this state thereon; and that the delegates of this state be requested to apply to Congress for the amount of the sum due to this state; and that the said John Collins, as soon as the said money shall be ordered, and be by him received, bring the same forthwith, and lodge the same in the general treasury of this state.

Whereas, Ezekiel Cornell and Christopher Lippitt, Esqs., presented unto this Assembly the following report, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed to examine, &c., into certain Military Abstracts.

To the Honorable the General Assembly, now sitting at South Kingstown:

We, the subscribers, being appointed, by this Assembly, a committee, to examine and certify certain abstracts now in our hands, do, upon examining the same, beg liberty to represent the following facts:

1st. Adjutants and quartermasters have done duty, and charged their pay, when there was not a sufficient number of men on duty to entitle them to the same, agreeably to an act of this Assembly, of the 30th of April last.

2d. A much larger number of captains and subalterns than are entitled to their pay by the abovesaid act, have also charged for the same; also subalterns have charged captains' pay; and sergeant-majors, and quartermaster-sergeants, quartermasters' pay.

3d. There is a much larger number of privates in the abstracts, than are contained in the weekly returns.

4th. Several guards called on duty, by the Honorable Major General Spencer, have charged the same bounty that was given from time to time to the militia, without any authority so to do.

All which being fully considered, we are of the opinion that we are not clothed with power sufficient to do justice both to the public and individuals. Where men have done service equally alike, it is difficult for us to say which shall receive pay, and which not, with any degree of certainty; we would rather recommend that so much be allowed as appears just, agreeably to the abovesaid act and the weekly returns; and that an equal dividend be made to and among the whole number charged, according to their pay.

Of the guards that were appointed by General Spencer, we can say nothing more than that the committees of safety have heretofore, as we have been informed, allowed them the same bounty the militia have had. It appears the acts of government are

silent in regard to them. We have before us General Spencer's orders for fixing some of them, in which he promiseth them pay and rations that shall enlist to the number settled.

We beg liberty further to represent, that it is our humble opinion, that neither adjutants nor quartermasters, serving in open violation of law, be allowed any pay, although the service is done.

There being a number of abstracts that there are no weekly returns to support, we would recommend that the privates be paid according to the several abstracts; and that the officers be treated as other officers are; but that this be not brought as a precedent in future.

All which is submitted, by—

Your Honors' most obedient, humble servants,

EZEKIEL CORNELL,
CHRISTOPHER LIPPITT,
Committee.

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be received.

That said committee, together with Nathaniel Mumford, Esq., auditor of accounts, settle and adjust the accounts of the officers and privates, therein referred to, agreeably to the said report.

That the guards appointed by Major General Spencer be allowed and paid the bounties, pay and rations, agreeably to the assurance given them by Major General Spencer; but that the same be not called into precedent in future, of which the said committee are required to inform Major General Spencer; and that the supernumerary officers receive pay as privates.

Whereas, the Honorable William Bradford, Esq., was empowered by a resolution of this Assembly, to lease the estates taken possession of by this state, at public vendue, to such persons only as should be friendly to the United States; and in pursuance thereof, at a public vendue, the real estate in Point Judith was struck off to William Gorton, of New London, in the state of Connecticut, who was the highest bidder for the same; and whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that the said William Gorton is inimical to the United States; wherefore—

It is voted and resolved, that a messenger be immediately

dispatched with a letter from His Honor the Deputy Governor, to the committee of New London, to obtain information of the character and conduct of the said William Gorton; and if the said committee shall not certify that the said William is friendly to the United States,—

It is further voted and resolved, that the bid of the said William, made as aforesaid, be, and the same is hereby, declared null and void; and that the said estate be leased to Job Watson, who was the next highest bidder, if he inclines to take a lease thereof, for the sum of money, and upon the conditions he bid for the same; or otherwise, the Deputy Governor is empowered to lease the same at public vendue, agreeably to the former resolution of this Assembly; and that the said William Gorton be notified thereof, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and hereby is, directed to hire a sum of money (if needed, to supply the treasury,) not exceeding £20,000, lawful money; and that he give his note or notes for the same, payable upon demand, with interest at six per cent. per annum, until paid.

It is voted and resolved, that this Assembly do approve of the resolution of the council of war, made and passed in March current, respecting allowing the officers two shillings, lawful money, for each retained ration; and that the same continue in force until repealed by this Assembly, or the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that all the officers and soldiers who have been in the service of this state, in the fifteen months' brigade, whose time of enlistment expires on the 16th day of March instant, be paid by the several committees of safety all the wages due to them, immediately upon the expiration of their enlistments.

That such of the said soldiers as have not been furnished with the clothing, hats or shoes, promised to them at the time they entered the service, have the same immediately furnished and delivered; or that the person or persons to

whom the same is due, be paid therefor such price for the deficient articles, as the council of war shall assess, at the option of the person to whom the same is due.

And whereas, it hath been represented, that more clothing for the said brigade hath been issued out from the several committees, than was sufficient for clothing the said brigade; and hath not been delivered agreeably to the order of the Assembly,—

It is therefore ordered, that the several committees of safety make strict inquiry respecting the same, and call the persons to whom the same was delivered, to account therefor; and that the several committees of safety, throughout the state, immediately send forward all the cloth or clothing, in their possession, to the agent-clothier, at Providence.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Job Watson be permitted to remove his hay from off the farm at Point Judith, heretofore leased him by this state, unless he should hire the same, or should obtain permission from the person to it may be leased, to use the hay on said farm; and that he be permitted to fodder out his hay upon said farm, until the 20th day of April next.

That the said Job Watson and Stephen Champlin retain each $120 of the rent due for said estate, until the next session of this Assembly; when the damages they may have received in not being put into possession of said estate, at the time mentioned in the lease, may be inquired into, and determined by this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the report of the committee appointed to draft a bill ascertaining the prices of goods, &c., agreeably to the report of the committee convened at New Haven, be accepted; and that the consideration of the said report, and the bill for prescribing an oath of fidelity and allegiance, be, and the same are hereby, referred to the next session of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier in this state, immediately purchase silk sufficient to make two standards for the regiments now raising

in this state; of the quality and quantity that Col. Bowen shall direct.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Gideon Hoxsie, Joseph Hoxsie and James Babcock be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to value the stock, belonging to the estate at Point Judith Point, agreeably to the last lease of the said estate, and deliver the same to the person who may hire the said estate the year ensuing.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and it is hereby, recommended to the council of war, to meet at the expense of the state, no more than six days in every other week; unless the importance of the business should make it necessary, in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor, for the council to meet oftener.

That they do not meet on Sundays, unless on great and urgent occasions; and that the council of war insert an advertisement in the Providence Gazette, giving notice of the time they shall appoint for transacting the public business.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to put in suit the thirty per cent. bonds given by the town treasurers, who were committed to jail upon executions issued by the general treasurer, for taxes which were due and unpaid, to the first court proper to try the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings, or his deputy, be, and he is hereby, directed to sell all the personal estate of Samuel Boone, lately residing in North Kingstown; and all the estate of Thomas Cutter, consisting of snuff, &c., now in Hopkinton, at public vendue, as soon as may be, after once advertising the same in the Providence Gazette.

That the snuff, &c., in Hopkinton, be sold at the place called Hopkinton City.

That the said sheriff pay the taxes, which are due from the estate of Samuel Bourn, out of the moneys arising from the sale of his said estate; and that he pay the remainder thereof, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that all persons within this state, who have neglected to subscribe the test prescribed by an act of the General Assembly, be, and they are hereby, permitted to subscribe the same, before either the superior or inferior court of the county within which the person lives, who shall apply at any time on or before the first Wednesday in May next; provided, that the said courts shall, upon inquiry and examination into the life, conduct and conversation of the person applying, be convinced he is a friend to the independence of this state, and of the United States.

That upon their subscribing said test, they shall be entitled to, and receive, the same benefits, advantages and immunities, as the subjects of this state are, who have already subscribed the same; any act to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding; and that this act be published three weeks, successively, in the Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that those persons who were known to be freemen in either of the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown, before the enemy took possession thereof, be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to meet for the purpose of choosing general officers and deputies for their respective towns, at the following places to wit:

Those of Portsmouth and Middletown, at the house of William Durfey, in Tiverton.

Those of Jamestown, at the house of Matthew Allen, in North Kingstown, on the third Wednesday of April next; and at each of the said places at 10 o'clock, in the forenoon, they conducting such choice agreeably to the usages and practices in their respective towns heretofore; and that a copy of this resolve be inserted in the next Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings, purchase two gallons of rum, on account of the state, and deliver the same to the soldiers who have been employed as guards during the sitting of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the colonels of the several regiments of militia within this state, be, and they are hereby, empowered to receive a sufficient number of cartridges and flints, belonging to this state, from the laboratory, or elsewhere, to furnish the captains of the several alarm and militia companies, belonging to their respective regiments which are deficient, so that each soldier in their respective companies be supplied with seventeen rounds, and with two flints; the colonels and captains giving and taking receipts for the same.

That the captains of the several companies choose out a sufficient number of cartridges to fit the bore of the gun of each soldier in his company, wrap them up in paper, and mark thereon the names of the persons for whom they are chosen out.

That they keep them in their possession until an alarm, when they are to be delivered to the soldiers; and that the commanding officer of each independent company in this state be empowered in like manner to receive a sufficient number of cartridges and flints for his company, and directed to observe the same order respecting them, as is above given to the captains of the militia and alarm companies.

It is further voted and resolved, that whenever the several companies shall be dismissed from the service upon which they shall at any time be called out, the captain or commanding officer of each company shall collect the cartridges which shall not have been expended, and wrap them up, and keep them in manner as above directed; and that return be made to the colonel or commanding officer of each regiment, or independent company, of the cartridges which shall or may be expended, and of the occasion, that they may be re-placed.

And it is further voted and resolved, that His Excellency the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to issue his warrant to each colonel and commanding officer aforesaid, agreeably to this act, that the same may be carried into execution immediately.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£ s. d.
Pardon Tabor, of Tiverton, for cleaning the meeting house, in which the soldiers had been quartered	2 00 0
Richard Bailey, Jr., one of the town council of Richmond, for moneys advanced, and services rendered, in hiring men to do duty upon the shores	3 14 0
Walter Cook, for his time and expenses in numbering the inhabitants of Tiverton, in the year 1776	3 00 0
Daniel Hall, for his time and expenses in carrying letters that came in a flag of truce from Newport, to the council of war, at Providence	1 16 0
Pardon Gray authorized to draw from the general treasury, for paying the wages and repairs of the sloop Diamond	200 00 0
William Potter, for his time and a number of hands, for sundry services rendered at the state house, in Kings county, &c.	54 06 0
Daniel Billington, for boarding Thomas Billington, a sick soldier at his house	4 10 0
William Potter, for wood supplied by him, for the use of the courts, in Kings county	9 00 0
Daniel Rodman, for his attendance upon the General Assembly, at the May session, 1777, as secretary	2 08 0
William Channing, for his attendance upon the General Assembly, as assistant clerk	7 07 0
Beriah Waite, for carrying acts of Assembly to the colonels of militia, &c., in Kings county	10 10 0
Nathaniel Helme, for his attendance upon the General Assembly, at the present session	3 15 0
Ebenezer Tefft, for his attendance, &c., upon the General Assembly, at the present session	4 04 0
Joseph Cross, for his attendance on the committee to hear private petitions,	1 10 0
Solomon Tefft, for his attendance on the General Assembly, at the present session	3 15 0

God save the United States of America.

Horatio Gates to the Governor of Rhode Island.

War and Ordnance Office,
March 3d, 1778.

Circular.]

Sir:—Since writing the enclosed letter, the board judged it expedient to transmit it to the agent, through Your Excellency, and the Honorable Council, that the conveyance may be more certain, and that we might have an opportunity of asking your and Council's assistance.

The letter is open for perusal; which when read, we pray you to seal and forward immediately to the agent, by a safe conveyance. The importance of the business we

trust, will be a sufficient apology for our giving you this trouble; and we beg you to urge on the agent to the most vigorous exertions, and as far as possible, prevent any delays in him or others, who may be concerned in the execution of this order. Should money be wanting, and 'tis in the power of the state to supply it, we hope the business will not be retarded for want of it.

I am, sir, with great respect,
Yours, and the Council's most obedient, humble servant,
HORATIO GATES, President.

To His Excellency Nicholas Cooke.

I have the honor to enclose the resolutions of Congress, recommending it to the young gentlemen of property in the state of Rhode Island, to form a volunteer troop, or troops of light cavalry; also a descriptive list of the accoutrements necessary, as directed by Congress.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the first Wednesday in May, 1778.

The following named officers, declared elected, were duly engaged:

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

John Tanner, Esq.,
Christopher Ellery, Esq.,
John Sayles, Esq.,
Jonathan Arnold, Esq.,
James Arnold, Jr., Esq.,
Gideon Comstock, Esq.,
Job Randall, Esq.,
Peter Phillips, Esq.,
Immanuel Case, Esq.,
Pardon Grey, Esq.

DEPUTIES.

Newport.

Henry Ward, Esq.,
Mr. Thomas Rumreil,
Mr. William Borden.
Mr. Robert Stevens, Jr.,

Providence.

Mr. John Updike,
Maj. Elihu Robinson,
Theodore Foster, Esq.
Capt. Paul Allen.

DEPUTIES.

Warwick.
John Warner, Esq.,
Mr. Thomas Holden,
Mr. John Greene,
Mr. Thomas Rice, Jr.

Westerly.
Joshua Babcock, Esq.

North Kingstown.
John Northup, Esq.,
Maj. Sylvester Gardner.

South Kingstown.
Mr. Enoch Haszard,
Rowse J. Helme, Esq.

East Greenwich.
Job Comstock, Esq.,
Thomas Tillinghast, Esq.

Jamestown.
Capt. Samuel Carr,
Benjamin Underwood Esq.

Smithfield.
Caleb Aldrich, Esq.
Mr. Peleg Arnold.

Scituate.
Timothy Hopkins, Esq.,
Mr. Christopher Potter.

Glocester.
Timothy Wilmarth, Esq.
Mr. Caleb Arnold.

Charlestown.
Col. Joseph Stanton, Jr.,
Jonathan Haszard, Esq.

West Greenwich.
Thomas Gorton, Esq.,
Judiah Aylsworth, Esq.

Coventry.
Stephen Potter, Esq.,
Mr. Daniel Bucklin.

Exeter.
George Peirce, Esq.,
John Chapman, Esq..

Bristol.
William Bradford, Esq.,
Nathaniel Fales, Esq.

Tiverton.
Capt. Isaac Manchester,
William Cooke, Esq.

Little Compton.
Nathaniel Searle, Jr., Esq.,
Mr. Adam Simmons.

Warren.
Mr. Cromel Child.

Cumberland.
James Lovett, Esq.,
Mr. John Lapham.

Richmond.
Edward Perry, Esq.,
Robert Stanton, Esq.

Cranston.
Christopher Lippitt, Esq.,
Mr. Peter Burlingame, 3d.

Hopkinton.
Thomas Wells, Esq.,
George Thurston, Esq.

Johnston.
Mr. John Smith,
Caleb Harris, Esq.

DEPUTIES.

North Providence.
Esek Hopkins, Esq.,
Mr. Esek Esten.

Barrington.
Josiah Humphrey, Esq.

The Hon. Joshua Babcock, speaker; William Channing, Esq., clerk.
Henry Ward, Esq., secretary.
William Channing, Esq., attorney general.
Joseph Clarke, Esq., general treasurer.

DELEGATES TO REPRESENT THE STATE IN CONGRESS.

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq.,
The Hon. William Ellery, Esq.,
The Hon. Henry Marchant, Esq.,
The Hon. John Collins, Esq.

JUSTICES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

Shearjashub Bourn, Esq., chief; Thomas Wells, Esq., second; Paul Mumford, Esq., third; Stephen Potter, Esq., fourth; and Christopher Lippitt, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR NEWPORT COUNTY.

Benjamin Underwood, Esq., chief; Christopher Ellery, Esq., second; Walter Cooke, Esq., third; Philip Taylor, Esq., fourth; William Taggart, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR PROVIDENCE COUNTY.

Thomas Greene, Esq., chief; Richard Steere, Esq., second; Rufus Hopkins, Esq., third; Jeremiah Whipple, Esq., fourth; and Daniel Mowry, Jr., Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR KINGS COUNTY.

William Potter, Esq., chief; John Northup, Esq., second; Carder Hazard, Esq., third; Joseph Hoxsie, Esq., fourth; and Immanuel Case, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR BRISTOL COUNTY.

Nathaniel Fales, Esq., chief; John Child, Esq., second; Joseph Reynolds, Esq., third; and Josiah Humphrey, Esq., fourth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR KENT COUNTY.

Philip Greene, Esq., chief; James Arnold, Jr., Esq., second; Gideon Mumford, Esq., third; Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq., fourth; Preserved Pearce, Esq., fifth.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

John Foster, Esq., judge of the court erected for the trial of maritime causes, in and throughout the state.

SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county.
Jabez Champlin, Esq.
Providence county.
William Rhodes, Esq.
Kings county.
Beriah Brown, Esq.
Bristol county.
Richard Smith, Esq.
Kent county.
Richard Fry, Esq.

John Foster, Samuel Chace and James Arnold, Jr., Esqs., the grand committee, or state's trustees.

John Foster, Esq., keeper of the grand committee's office.

Jacob Whitman, Esq., general sealer of weights and measures within and throughout the state.

FIELD OFFICERS FOR THE STATE, IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

John Mathewson, Esq., colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Joseph Noyes, Esq., colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Nathan Miller, Esq., colonel, of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

Thomas Holden, Esq., colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

John Cooke, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Chad Brown, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Charles Dyer, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Archibald Kasson, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

William West. Esq., colonel, of the third regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Simon Whipple, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Jesse Maxson, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Peter Church, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Pardon Gray, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

John Angell, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Thomas Potter, Jr., Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Thomas Gorton, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Richard Fenner, Jr., Esq., major, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Thomas Sheffield, major, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Peleg Heath, Esq., major, of the regiment in the county of Bristol.

Job Pearce, Esq., major, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Nathaniel Church, Esq., major, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Asa Kimball, Esq., major, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Jonathan Maxson, Esq., major, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Isaac Johnston, Esq., major, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Officers to Command the several Trained Bands, or Companies of Militia, within the State.

Providence. First company—Abimelech Riggs, captain; Hezekiah Dayton, lieutenant; Joseph Allen, ensign.

Second company—Lewis Peck, captain; Samuel Hamlin, lieutenant; Walker Harding, ensign.

Third company—Charles Keene, captain; Benjamin Comstock, lieutenant; Seth Wheaton, ensign.

Fourth company—Jas. Snow, captain; Zepheniah Brown, lieutenant; Joseph Fuller, ensign.

Warwick. First company—Job Randall, captain; James Arnold, 3d, lieutenant; James Carder, ensign.

Second company—Squire Miller, captain; James Jerauld, lieutenant; John Stafford, ensign.

Third company—Thomas Rice, son of Thomas, captain; Anthony Holden, Jr., lieutenant; Stukely Stafford, ensign.

Westerly. First company—Joshua Pendleton, captain; Ephraim Pendleton, lieutenant; Simeon Pendleton, ensign.

Second company—John Gavitt, captain; Stephen Saunders, lieutenant; William Bliven, ensign.

Third company—George Stillman, captain; Peleg Saunders, lieutenant; Asa Maxson, ensign.

North Kingstown. First company—Peter Wright, captain; Edward Dyer, lieutenant; Samuel Dyer, ensign.

Second company—James Albro, captain; James Eldred, lieutenant; Lawrence Pierce, ensign.

Third company—John Brown, captain; Joshua Vaughan, lieutenant; Beriah Waite, ensign.

South Kingstown. First company—Timothy Lock, captain; Daniel Tefft, lieutenant; William Stedman, ensign.

Second company—Stephen Babcock, captain; Joseph Carpenter, lieutenant; John Weeden, ensign.

East Greenwich. First company—William Hall, captain; William Sweet, Jr., lieutenant; David Andrews, ensign.

Second company—Allen Johnston, captain; Michael Spencer, lieutenant; George Bailey, ensign.

Jamestown. Edward Carr, Jr., captain; John Weeden (son of Daniel Weeden, Jr.), lieutenant; Samuel Carr, ensign.

Smithfield. First company—Samuel Day, captain; Richard Sayles, Jr., lieutenant; William Gully, ensign.

Second company—Ebenezer Trask, captain; Simeon Ballou, lieutenant; David Aldrich, ensign.

Third company—Joseph Sprague, captain; Daniel Mowry, 4th, lieutenant; Benjamin Sheldon, ensign.

Scituate. First company—Jonathan Knight, captain; Angell Sweet, lieutenant; David Wright, ensign.

Second company—Simeon Herrenden, captain; George Dorrance, lieutenant; James Tyler, ensign.

Third company—Coomer Smith, captain; Jabel Angell, lieutenant; Samuel Angell, ensign.

Fourth company—Isaac Hopkins, captain; Ozial Smith, lieutenant; William Walker, ensign.

Fifth company—Samuel Wilbour, captain; Thos. Field, lieutenant; William Potter, ensign.

Sixth company—William Howard, captain; James Welles, lieutenant; Samuel Perkins, ensign.

Glocester. First company—Stephen Olney, captain; Benjamin Burlingame, lieutenant; Stephen Irons, ensign.

Second company—Samuel Mayes, captain; Daniel Mathewson, lieutenant; James Colwell, ensign.

Third company—Abraham Winsor, captain; Richard Lewis, lieutenant; Nathaniel Wade, ensign.

Fourth company—Stephen Winsor, captain; Isaac Ross, lieutenant; Israel Smith, ensign.

Charlestown. First company—John Parks, captain; Gideon Hoxsie, Jr., lieutenant; Christopher Babcock, ensign.

Second company—Amos Greene, captain; Beriah Lewis, lieutenant; Daniel Stafford, ensign.

West Greenwich. First company—Joseph Hopkins, captain; Benjamin Weaver, lieutenant; William Case, ensign.

Second company—Benj. Gorton, captain; Caleb Greene, lieutenant; Joseph Weaver, ensign.

Third company—Joseph Draper, captain; Joseph James, lieutenant; Judiah Aylesworth, Jr., ensign.

Coventry. First company—Benedict Colvin, captain; John Colvin, lieutenant; William Potter, ensign.

Second company—William Roy, captain; William Burlingame, lieutenant; Elijah Weaver, ensign.

Third company—Langford Weaver, captain; Samuel Greene, Jr., lieutenant; John Bucklin, ensign.

Fourth company—Asa Bennett, captain; Joseph Kinyon, lieutenant; Thomas Parker, Jr., ensign.

Exeter. First company—Jonathan Bates, Jr., captain; Daniel Tillinghast, lieutenant; John Congdon, Jr., ensign.

Bristol company—William Throop, captain; Joseph Reynolds, Jr., lieutenant; Jonathan Diamond, ensign.

Tiverton. First company—Isaac Cooke, captain; Philip Corey, lieutenant; Philip Manchester, ensign.

Little Compton. First company—Ephraim Simmons, captain; Samuel Cook, lieutenant; William Simmons, ensign.

Second company—George Simmons, captain; John Davis, lieutenant; Stephen Pierce, ensign.

Cumberland. First company—Enoch Weatherhead, captain; Benj. Wilkinson, lieutenant; Joseph Razee, ensign.

Second company—Amos Whipple, captain; Absalom Ballou, lieutenant; William Emmerson, ensign.

Richmond. First company—Richard Bailey, Jr., captain; John Woodmansie, lieutenant; Joshua Webb, ensign.

Second company—John Clarke, captain; Jeremiah Tefft, lieutenant; Pardon Tefft, ensign.

Cranston. First company—Anthony Potter, captain; Josiah Potter, lieutenant; Thomas Congdon, ensign.

Second company—Frederick Williams, captain; Nathaniel Carpenter, lieutenant; John Harris, ensign.

Third company—William Field, captain; Joseph Potter, lieutenant; Nehemiah Burlingame, ensign.

Hopkinton. First company—Henry Wells, captain; Sylvanus Maxson, lieutenant; Thomas Wells, Jr., ensign.

Second company—George Thurston, Jr., captain; Randall Wells, lieutenant; Joseph Thurston, ensign.

Third company—Jesse Burdick, captain; Uriah Crandall, lieutenant; Lebbeus Cotterel, ensign.

Johnston. First company—Daniel Sprague, captain; Robert Potter, lieutenant; Isaac Arnold, ensign.

Second company—Emor Olney, captain; Daniel Angell, lieutenant; Laban Waterman, ensign.

North Providence company—Eleazer Jenckes, captain; Samuel Olney, lieutenant; Esek Olney, ensign.

Barrington company—Viall Allen, captain; Daniel Kinnicut, lieutenant; James Martin, ensign.

It is voted and resolved, that the militia, in the town of Cumberland, and the third company of militia, in the town of Cranston, be, and they are hereby, annexed to the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Ward, Theodore Foster and Rowse J. Helme, Esqs., be, and they are hereby,

appointed a committee, to draft a bill, agreeably to a resolution of Congress, of the 23d of April last; and that they make report, as soon as may be.

In Council was read the return of the officers chosen to command the independent company of Kingstown Reds, in the county of Kings, which are as follows, viz.:

John Waite, captain; Nathan Taylor, first lieutenant; Samuel Eldred, second lieutenant; Gardner Tefft, ensign.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and hereby are, approved.

In Council was read the return of the officers chosen to command the company of Kentish Guards, which are as follows, to wit:

Richard Fry, Esq. colonel; William Arnold, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Griffin Greene, Esq., major; Charles Greene, captain.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and hereby are, approved.

The return of the officers chosen to command the company of Smithfield and Cumberland Rangers, was read in Council, and is as follows, to wit:

George Peck, captain; Edward Thompson, first lieutenant; Levi Brown, second lieutenant; William Bowen, ensign.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that the second and third companies of militia of the town of Exeter be annexed to, and do duty under the command of the commissioned officers of the first company of militia, of said town, until officers shall be appointed by this Assembly, for the second and third companies.

Whereas, the following form of a commission, to be issued

to the delegates appointed to represent this state in Congress, was laid before this Assembly, to wit:

Form of Commission to Delegates in Congress.

By His Excellency William Greene, Esq., Governor, Captain-General, and Commander-in-Chief, of and over the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

To ——— ———, Esq., Greeting.

Whereas, by the free vote of the freemen of the said state, on the first Wednesday in May inst., you, the said ——— ———, was elected a delegate, to represent the said state, for one year, in the general Congress of delegates from the thirteen United States of America, now sitting at Yorktown, in the state of Pennsylvania, or wherever the same may sit:

I do therefore, in the name of the Governor and Company of the said state, hereby authorize, empower and commissionate you, the said ——— ———, in conjunction with the other delegates that are, or may be, elected delegates of the said state, or separately and alone, in case of the sickness or necessary absence of the other delegates of said state, to represent the said state in the said general Congress; and in behalf thereof, to join with the delegates from the other states, or major part of them, in all such measures as shall be thought best for defending and promoting the welfare of the said United States, agreeably to the instructions given, or that may be given, you by the General Assembly. This commission, so far as it empowers you to act separately and alone, is to continue good in that respect, unless it should be provided by the articles of confederation that no state shall be represented by less than two delegates; in which case, any two of the said delegates, if no more than three are present; or otherwise, the major part of those present, are empowered to execute this commission, which is also to be understood to continue in force until you shall be superseded, and another delegate shall appear to take your place.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the said state, at Providence, this —— day of ————, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight.

By His Excellency's command.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid draught be, and the same is hereby, approved; and that His Excellency the Governor be requested to issue a commission, under the public seal of the state, to each of the delegates appointed to represent this state in the Most Honorable the Congress of the thirteen United States of America, agreeably to the aforementioned form; and that the same be countersigned by the secretary.

It is voted and resolved, that John Updike, Stephen Potter and Christopher Ellery, Esqs., and Mr. Robert Stevens, Jr., be a committee to examine the clothing returned into the deputy agent-clothier's store, in this state, by John Cooke, Esq.; and that they make report as soon as may be.

This Assembly, taking into consideration the memorial of Major General Sullivan of this day, to the General Assembly,—

Do vote and resolve, that John Reynolds, Esq., having, in pursuance of a resolve of Congress, of the 15th of November last, and at the request of James Mease, Esq., agent-clothier general, by his letter of the 21st of the same month, been appointed deputy agent-clothier general within this state, is therefore to be considered to all intents as a Continental officer; and the clothing in his store as Continental clothing.

And it is further voted and resolved, that it be recommended to the said John Reynolds to supply all Continental officers with clothing out of his store, agreeably to the resolution of Congress of the 22d of November last, upon their producing to him an order therefor, from the Honorable Major General Sullivan.

It is voted and resolved, that Miss Susannah Lyon be, and she is hereby, permitted to go upon Rhode Island, in the first cartel vessel; and that she have liberty to carry on with her, her wearing apparel; she obtaining the approbation of General Sullivan, for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that the delegates of this state be, and they or either of them are hereby, empowered to bring forward the vouchers of this state's accounts against the Continent, as soon as they can do it with convenience; unless it should appear to them necessary to detain the said vouchers at Yorktown.

It is voted and resolved, that Thomas Cranston, now under confinement by order of the council of war, be permitted, with the consent of the Honorable Major General

Sullivan, to remove from Mr. John Smith's, in Johnston, to his son Thomas Cranston's, in North Kingstown, there to continue within the limits of his said son's farm, until the further orders of this Assembly, or the council of war; he giving bond, with the said Thomas Cranston, Jr., and Edward Haszard, as sureties, in the sum of £2,000, lawful money, that he will continue a true prisoner within the said limits, until further order, as aforesaid.

Whereas, William Bentley, Henry Oman, John Harwood, John Newton, William Pitman and Richard Thomas, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that, having been great sufferers by the enemy, and having been driven off from their habitations in Newport, they have now fixed up a boat, in order to catch fish at Point Judith; and thereupon they prayed this Assembly to grant them a commission, to make reprisals upon any of the enemy's shipping that may fall in their way, as they propose to equip themselves with arms for their defence; and further prayed this Assembly to supply them with arms sufficient for the said purpose, they giving therefor, security; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that His Excellency the Governor be requested to issue a commission of letters of marque and reprisal, to William Bentley, one of the petitioners; and that Col. Daniel Tillinghast supply the petitioners with six good muskets, they giving security to account for the same, when called for.

It is voted and resolved, that John Nichols be, and he is hereby, permitted to subscribe the test, ordered to be subscribed by the inhabitants of this state.

Whereas, by a report of the committee appointed to examine the clothing returned into the clothier's store, by John Cooke, Esq., thirty-two coats, seventy-four white shirts, and four check shirts, being part thereof, are unfit for service,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said John Cooke be required to appear before this Assembly, at the

next session thereof, to render an account of his conduct in purchasing the same; and that the said clothing be not disposed of until the further orders of this Assembly.

His Excellency Nicholas Cooke, Esq., late Governor, and His Honor William Bradford, Esq., late Deputy Governor of this state, having entered upon their said offices at a time of great public danger, difficulty and distress, and discharged the duties of their stations with patriotic zeal, firmness and intrepidity,—

It is voted and resolved, that the thanks of this Assembly be given them in behalf of this state, for their aforesaid services; and that the secretary deliver a copy hereof, to each of them.

Whereas, by an act of this Assembly, negro, mulatto and Indian slaves, belonging to the inhabitants of this state, are permitted to enlist into the Continental battalions, ordered to be raised by this state, and are thereupon forever manumitted and discharged from the service of their masters; and whereas, it is necessary, for answering the purposes intended by the said act, that the same should be temporary,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that no negro, mulatto and Indian slave, be permitted to enlist into said battalions, from and after the 10th day of June next; and that the said act then expire, and be no longer in force; any thing therein to the contrary, notwithstanding.

This Assembly having ordered a brigade to be raised, to serve until the 16th of March next, and allowed the soldiers who shall enlist therein, bounty and clothing, as specified in the act for raising the same; and as the said brigade is not full,—

It is voted and resolved, that all such persons as shall enlist into the said brigade, on or before the 16th of June next, shall be entitled to the whole bounties allowed by the said act.

That all such as shall enlist into the said brigade after that time, shall be held to serve twelve months, from the

time of their enlistment; and that the secretary transmit a copy of this resolution to the colonel of each regiment in the said brigade, to be communicated to the several commissioned officers therein.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier in this state, be empowered to draw the sum of £16,250, lawful money, out of the general treasury; £4,000, part thereof, immediately, and the remainder when the money from Congress shall be received, for discharging such debts as have been contracted by him in his office; and to enable him to obtain such further supplies of clothing and blankets, as may be necessary for the use of the officers in the Continental battalions raised by this state, and the soldiers in the service of this state.

Whereas, the prize ships Syren and Sisters; and the prize schooner Two Mates, together with their guns, stores, cargoes and appurtenances, which were captured in this state, have been mostly sold by the captors, who are not empowered by law to call special courts, in order to collect from the purchasers the moneys due on the sales of the said prizes; and the said moneys remain in the hands of said purchasers and the captors, and the costs and charges of the trial and condemnation of the said prizes, and other expenses thereof, remain unpaid; and as no distribution can be made among the said captors until said moneys be collected,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that all the accounts of the sales of the said prizes, or authentic copies of said accounts, be immediately delivered to the sheriff of the county of Kings, by the person or persons who are possessed of the same.

That the said sheriff be, and he is hereby, fully empowered, ordered and directed, immediately to demand and receive from each of said purchasers all money due by his said account.

That in case any of said purchasers shall refuse payment,

the said sheriff shall immediately call a special court for the recovery of said money, in the same manner as by law he might have done, in case the said prizes, or any part thereof, had been sold by him at public vendue.

That as soon as the said sheriff shall have collected the said moneys, he shall deduct and pay out of the same, to the clerk of the maritime court, in this state, the amount of the costs and charges of the trial and condemnation of said prizes; and that said amount be distributed by said clerk to the officers of said court, and others, to whom it belongs.

That the said sheriff also deduct and pay out of said moneys to the general treasurer, for the use of this state, the sum of £470 8*s.* 9*d.*, being the amount of expenses paid by this state for the prisoners taken in the said ship Syren; and that after said deductions, and all other incidental charges, duly ascertained, the said sheriff immediately distribute and pay all the remainder of said moneys to the said captors' agents, agreeably to the decree of said maritime court.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby enacted, that no one of the aforesaid captors shall receive, or be entitled to, his share or dividend of said moneys, until he shall have subscribed the act of this state, commonly called the test act.

And it is also hereby further provided and enacted, that before any one of said captors shall receive his share or dividend of said moneys, the said agents shall tender, and, if he be willing to take the same, shall administer to him an oath, in the following form, to wit:

Form of the Oath.

"You, C. D., as in the presence of the ever living God, do solemnly swear, that you have not, by any ways or means whatsoever, directly or indirectly, by yourself, or by any person or persons, for, by or under you, taken, secreted, concealed or embezzled, any article or articles of the goods, effects, or things of any kind whatsoever, which ever belonged to the prize ship Syren, or the prize ship Sisters, or the prize

schooner Two Mates, or to the stores, tackle, furniture, cargo or appurtenances of either of the said vessels, which were lately taken near the shore of Point Judith; and that if you know of any person or persons, who have taken, secreted, concealed or embezzled, any of the aforesaid goods or effects, you will give information to the sheriff of Kings county, or to the agent or agents of the captors, of all you know, and of all that you have been informed of, by any other person or persons, relating to such concealment. So help you God."

And be it further enacted, that each and every of the aforesaid captors, who shall refuse to make oath in the form abovesaid, shall forfeit his whole share or dividend of the aforesaid moneys; and the said sheriff shall pay the same into the general treasury, for the use of this state.

Whereas, Benjamin Davis, town treasurer of the town of North Kingstown, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that an execution was issued by the general treasurer, for the taxes assessed upon said town in August, 1777; that thereupon, he was committed to jail, and came out upon the thirty per cent. act; and that the collector of taxes for said town, on the 20th of April last, paid the taxes assessed on the said town, with the interest due thereon, in the treasury, as appears by the certificate with the said petition presented; and thereupon, the said Benjamin Davis prayed that said town may be discharged from paying the said thirty per cent.; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

Whereas, Mr. Beriah Brown, Jr., a deputy sheriff of the county of Kings, in pursuance of an order of the council of war, of the 28th of April last, took into his possession all the real and personal estate of James Austin, late of North Kingstown; and the said Beriah Brown having made report of his proceedings to this Assembly,—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said Beriah be empowered and directed to lease the real estate of the said James Austin at public vendue, to such persons only as are deemed friendly to the liberties of America, the rent thereof to be paid in the produce of the same, at the prices as fixed in the last bill for regulating the prices of labor, &c.

That the said Beriah deliver to the wife of the said James one cow, two one year old cattle, two barrels of cider, and the household furniture, being part of the personal estate of the said James; and that he sell the remainder of the personal estate of the said James at public vendue.

Whereas, the committee, to whom was referred the petition of John Baggs, Jr., who received a wound while in the service of this state, presented unto this Assembly the following report, to wit:

Report.

We have examined into the circumstances of the case of the said John Baggs, Jr., and adjudge that he be entitled to receive half pay from the last day of October, until the last day of April, and one ration per day during that time.

JONATHAN ARNOLD, JOHN BROWN.
JOHN SMITH,

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that the officers of the brigade ordered to be raised within this state, be allowed twenty shillings, lawful money, including the eight shillings heretofore allowed, for each man by them hereafter enlisted, and who shall be mustered in the said brigade.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kent forthwith take into possession, for the use of the state, all the real and personal estate which did belong to Joseph Hunt, Jr., of East Greenwich, who hath joined the enemy;

and that the said sheriff make report thereof to this Assembly; or in the recess thereof, to the council of war.

It is further voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings, forthwith take into possession, for the use of this state, all the real and personal estate which did belong to John Underwood, of North Kingstown, who hath also joined the enemy; and that the said sheriff lease the said real estates in the same manner and upon the same conditions as the real estates in the possession of the state have heretofore been leased.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings inquire into the present situation of the estates of Samuel Gardner and William Robinson, situate in South Kingstown; and that he make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Paul Allen, Esek Esten, Job Comstock, Caleb Harris and Joseph Stanton, Jr., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draft a bill for further regulating hospitals erected for the small pox within this state; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that a vote of the council of war, of the 18th of April last, directing Capt. Gabriel Allen, paymaster of Col. Topham's battalion, not to pay any bounties to any persons who may enlist into the said battalion until they shall have passed muster, be, and the same is hereby, repealed, so far as respects the payment of bounties.

Whereas, the agent-clothier in this state, did, some time since, receive an order from the clothier-general, directing him to apply for a quantity of clothing belonging to the Continent, then in the state of the Massachusetts Bay; and whereas, on application being made, it was found that the clothing was before disposed of; and information being received that there is a large quantity of various kinds of clothing lately arrived in Boston, on account of the Continent, and there being constant and great demands made on

the agent-clothier in this state, which he cannot comply with for want of money,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier in this state, make immediate application to the agent-clothier, or Continental agents in the Massachusetts Bay, or whoever may be in possession of the said Continental clothing, that they supply him with a sufficient quantity of the said clothes and blankets, to answer the present demands on him, on account of the United States.

It is voted and resolved, that Joseph Clarke, Esq., general treasurer of this state, be allowed £500, lawful money, including his standing salary for his extraordinary services in his said office the year past; and that he be empowered to draw the same out of the general treasury, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that John Sayles, Esq., who is appointed by the town of Smithfield, to furnish the families of soldiers in the Continental service, within said town, with necessaries, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £150, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for the purpose aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that any person within this state, not having subscribed the test or declaration heretofore prescribed by an act of this Assembly, shall have liberty, on or before the first Monday of September next, to subscribe the same, before the town council of the town in which he may reside; and such person shall thereupon be entitled to all the privileges, franchises and immunities, as though he had subscribed the test or declaration in due season; and that no person shall be admitted to subscribe the said test after the expiration of said time, excepting persons who shall hereafter arrive at the age of twenty-one years, and officers and soldiers in the army, officers and seamen of the navy, and seamen who are absent at sea, who are hereby empowered, after the expiration thereof, to subscribe the same before the town council of the town in which they may reside.

Provided nevertheless, that said town councils be, and

they are hereby, empowered and required to reject any persons who may not appear to them entitled to the privileges derived from the subscription of said test.

And it is ordered, that this resolve be inserted in the next Providence Gazette; and that copies hereof, be transmitted to the several town clerks within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the superior and inferior courts for the county of Newport be held at Tiverton, at the times at which by law they were to be holden in Newport, until the enemy remove from the island of Rhode Island; and that the juries be empanneled at said court in manner as is before prescribed.

And it is further voted and resolved, that a copy of this act be published in the next Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Ebenezer Herrington have leave to improve, for one year, the lot of land lying in North Kingstown, lately belonging to Thomas Cutter, who is gone off to the enemy, at Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that the secretary collect the resolves of Congress, and have them before this Assembly at their future meetings; and that he report to this Assembly at the next session all such acts as have passed in consequence of resolves of Congress, since transmitting the same to Congress was recommended to this state.

Resolved, that the act permitting inoculation within this state, and all acts made in addition to, and amendment thereof, be, and they are hereby, suspended until the 1st day of October next.

Provided nevertheless, that permission be, and is hereby, given for inoculating the soldiers who have or may enlist into the Continental battalions raising by this state, in the farm-house belonging to Dr. Joseph Joslyn, in the town of East Greenwich, about four miles from the compact part thereof.

Provided also, that the inhabitants of the town of North Providence may be inoculated; or if they should take the small pox in the natural way, that they be removed to an

hospital which may be ordered within said town by the town council thereof; to be under their direction, and under the rules and regulations as is provided in the aforementioned acts.

It is further resolved, that if any person shall be guilty of inoculating any persons, or aiding, assisting, or advising thereto, within this state, contrary to this resolve, he shall forfeit and pay a fine of £30, lawful money, for each person who shall be so inoculated contrary to the tenor hereof, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within this state; one-half thereof, to and for the use of the informer, and the remainder for the use of this state.

And it is ordered, that a copy hereof, be published in the next Providence Gazette, and sent to each town clerk within this state.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
George Pierce, for a quantity of beef for the use of the troops stationed at North Kingstown	20	00	00
Henry Marchant, as a delegate in Congress from Rhode Island	100	00	00
John Reynolds, for two yoke of oxen, two ox yokes, and two chains, for the transportation of stores to the army	81	09	09
Hezekiah Wilcox, for the freight of a quantity of salt belonging to the state	8	15	07
Mrs. Abigail Read, for nursing Thomas Thornton, a soldier, sick with the small pox, and for sundry necessaries provided for him	13	16	00
Dr. James Mason, for his attendance, &c., on the above named Thomas Thornton	3	12	00
Stephen Hopkins, for his services and expenses as one of the delegates in Congress from Rhode Island	344	12	07
John Ellis, for boarding James Sutton, a soldier, while sick with a fever, at his house	7	01	11
Abel Tanner, clerk of the town council of Hopkinton, for provisions for the soldiers by them raised for the late intended expedition against Rhode Island, in October last	22	08	09
John Baggs, Jr., for boarding expenses in consequence of a wound received by him while in the service of the United States	35	08	00
William Bradford, for balance of his account against the state	27	02	06
William Coddington, for his time and expenses in taking an account of the number of inhabitants in the town of Newport, in the year 1776	2	11	00

	£ s. d.
Capt. Samuel Phillips, for two blankets, and a number of knapsacks by him provided for the soldiers in his company	4 12 00
Judiah Aylsworth, for his time and expenses in taking an account of the number of inhabitants in the town of East Greenwich	3 12 00
Peter Phillips, in part payment of money borrowed of him by the state	250 00 00
Walter Channing, paymaster to Col Crary's battalion, authorized to draw out of the general treasury	600 00 00
Capt. Gabriel Allen, paymaster of Col. Topham's battalion, authorized to draw out of the general treasury	400 00 00
Capt. Joseph West, paymaster of Col. Elliott's regiment, authorized to draw out of the general treasury	400 00 00
Caleb Arnold, for his commission for purchasing forty-one pair of stockings in behalf of the state	2 11 00
William Channing, for his expenses in attending on the General Assembly, as assistant clerk	8 10 00
William Mumford, for his attendance as clerk, on the council of war; and for his attendance on the General Assembly at the present session, as deputy secretary	21 12 00

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on Thursday, the 28th day of May, 1778.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Caleb Harris, Esq., deliver one-half ton of pistol powder to Col. Daniel Tillinghast, for the use of the laboratory within this state.

A letter from His Excellency Governor Trumbull, of the 19th of May inst., to the Governor of this state, having been laid before this Assembly, and the subject matter thereof, taken under consideration,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be referred; and that Henry Ward and Rowse J. Helme, Esqs., be a committee to draft an answer to the said letter, and report the same as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that a negro man Prince, belong-

ing to Messrs. Joseph Brown and Nicholas Power, of Grafton, in the state of Massachusetts Bay, who hath entered into the regiment under the command of Col. Greene, be discharged from the said regiment.

That the clothes and bounty advanced the said negro (if to be had), be delivered up to Col. Greene; and that said negro Princ edeliver up all the equipments belonging to the state, if any he has received.

Resolved, that eight hundred and thirty-nine effective men be raised by the several towns within this state (excepting the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, New Shoreham, Middletown and Jamestown), for filling the battalions and regiment of artillery raising by this state, on or before the 10th day of June next.

That they be proportioned to the several towns in the following manner, to wit:

The proportion of each town according to the last tax assessed upon it by the General Assembly (deducting one-eighth part of the sum last assessed upon the town of Bristol, and one-sixteenth part of the tax of the town of Warren), shall be computed, and then the proportion of each town, according to the number of fencible men, as appeared by the last estimate, shall be also computed.

And as a difference will arise in the two numbers, that the same be fixed by a relative proportion, to be struck between the number of men to be raised by the tax, and the number of fencible men, which shall be the numbers to be raised by each respective town.

It is further resolved, that the men who may be raised by the said towns, agreeably to this resolve, be allowed the same bounty and wages as have been allowed to the persons who have heretofore enlisted into said battalions and regiment; and that the persons whose names are hereafter mentioned, be appointed and empowered to receive, out of the general treasury, such sums of money as are sufficient for paying said bounty, allowed to each soldier ordered to be raised by their respective towns, to wit:

Names of Persons appointed by the General Assembly to pay the Bounty allowed to each Soldier of the respective Towns.

For Providence—James Arnold, Esq., town treasurer.
" Warwick—John Warner, Esq.
" Westerly—Joshua Babcock, Esq.
" North Kingstown—Major Sylvester Gardner.
" South Kingstown—Mr. Enoch Haszard.
" East Greenwich—Thomas Tillinghast, Esq.
" Smithfield—John Sayles, Esq.
" Scituate—Timothy Hopkins, Esq.
" Glocester—Mr. Caleb Arnold.
" Charlestown—Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq.
" West Greenwich—Judiah Aylsworth, Esq.
" Coventry—Mr. David Bucklin.
" Exeter—John Chapman, Esq.
" Bristol—Nathaniel Fales, Esq.
" Tiverton—Pardon Gray, Esq.
" Little Compton—Nathaniel Searle, Esq.
" Warren—Mr. Shubael Burr.
" Cumberland—Mr. John Lapham.
" Richmond—Mr. Edward Perry.
" Cranston—Mr. Peter Burlingame, 3d.
" Hopkinton—Thomas Wells, Esq.
" Johnston—Edward Fenner, Esq.
" North Providence—Joseph Olney, Esq.
" Barrington—Mr. Samuel Allen.

It is further resolved, that the aforenamed persons deliver the money unto the town treasurers of their respective towns, or unto such persons as the towns shall appoint to receive the same; and thereupon the said towns shall be accountable to the state for the money by them received.

It is further resolved, that each town in this state, which shall be deficient in raising its proportion of men, as aforesaid, shall pay as a fine, to and for the use of this state,

£30, lawful money, for every soldier they shall be deficient in, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any of the courts of record within this state, by the general treasurer thereof.

It is further resolved, that if any person, enlisted by either of said towns, shall not pass muster, before the muster-master, appointed to said battalions and regiment, the town who shall have enlisted him, shall sustain any loss which may arise by reason of his enlistment, and furnish an effective man in the room of the person who shall not be mustered, as aforesaid.

It is further resolved, that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford apportion the men to be raised, agreeably to this resolve.

And it is ordered, that the secretary transmit copies of this act, and also of the said apportionment, to the several town clerks in this state, to which the men so to be enlisted are to be proportioned, on or before Monday next.

The following is the apportionment of the men to the several towns, agreeably to the aforegoing resolve:

Proportion of Men to be furnished for the Army by the several Towns.

	Proportion.		Proportion.
Providence -	80	Bristol, - -	18
Warwick - -	52	Tiverton, -	37
Westerly -	31	Little Compton,	30
North Kingstown, -	47	Warren, - -	14
South Kingstown,	69	Cumberland,	28
East Greenwich, -	32	Richmond, - -	22
Smithfield, -	51	Cranston, -	35
Scituate, - -	56	Hopkinton, -	29
Glocester, -	46	Johnston, -	21
Charlestown, -	27	North Providence,	14
West Greenwich,	25	Barrington, -	10
Coventry, - -	34		
Exeter, -	31		839

Whereas, this Assembly hath passed a resolve for filling up the battalions and regiment of artillery, raising by this state, for the defence of this and the other of the United States, by the 10th day of June next; and whereas,a sufficient number of arms cannot be procured by this state, for equipping the men who may be enlisted into the said battalions and regiment, within the time limited,—

It is voted and resolved, that Major General Sullivan be, and he is hereby, requested to procure such a number of arms, belonging to the United States, as shall be sufficient for equipping the men ordered to be raised for the purpose aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Enoch Haszard and Rowse J. Helme be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to receive of Mr. Gordon Tenant, on the Point Farm, the wool due for the rent of the same; and that they remove it to a place of safety, until the further orders of this Assembly.

Whereas, it appears, by a certificate under the hand of Mr. David Brown, duly and regularly attested, that he, together with Joshua Lawton, between the 15th day of November, and the 10th day of December, A. D. 1776, manufactured and made, out of the sea-water, at the salt-works, in Barrington, in this state, eighty bushels of good common salt; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the bounty allowed by law upon the salt above certified to have been manufactured in this state, at the time it was manufactured, be paid to Mr. John Updike, out of the general treasury, for the above named David Brown.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Bristol, or his deputy, forthwith take possession, in behalf of this state, of the real and personal estate, in the county of Bristol, belonging to Barnard Miller (who has joined the enemy on the island of Rhode Island), and make report thereof, to this Assembly.

That in the mean time Job Miller, son to the said Bar-

nard, be permitted to improve the said estate; and that he account for the rents thereof, and for the said personal estate, to this Assembly.

Whereas, His Excellency the Governor, by the advice of such of the members of the upper and lower houses of Assembly, as could conveniently be consulted, hath ordered into actual duty one-sixth part of the militia, independent and alarm companies, within this state, for the defence thereof, to do duty for the space of fifteen days,—

It is voted and resolved, that the conduct of His Excellency therein, be approved of; and that the said one-sixth part of the militia, independent and alarm companies, continue in service for the space of time for which they have been called to do service, as aforesaid.

Provided, that nothing herein contained shall extend to the town of Little Compton, but that the one-half part of the militia and alarm companies of the said town, continue to do duty, agreeably to a resolution of this Assembly, of the 6th of December last; excepting that the commanding officer of the said companies be appointed by one of the field officers of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport; any thing in the said resolution to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

And provided also, that this resolve shall not extend to the town of Barrington.

Resolved, that a committee be appointed, consisting of one person from each of the towns within this state, to inquire into the number of guns, bayonets and cartouch boxes, which have been purchased in behalf of this state, within their respective towns, agreeably to a former resolution of this Assembly; the number of said guns now remaining in said towns, and if any are missing, to whom they were delivered; who were appointed to purchase the same, and whether they have accounted for the money by them received for the purpose aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Daniel Tillinghast immediately have the tin in his possession made up into cart-

ridge boxes, and have the same painted and ready for use as soon as may be.

It is further resolved, that the following persons be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee for the purpose aforesaid, to wit:

Names of the Committee appointed for the above named purposes.

For Providence—Capt. Paul Allen.
" Warwick—Thomas Holden, Esq.
" Westerly—Mr. David Maxson.
" North Kingstown—Mr. Peter Wright.
" South Kingstown—Rowse J. Helme, Esq.
" East Greenwich—Job Comstock, Esq.
" Smithfield—Mr. Peleg Arnold.
" Scituate—Job Randall, Esq.
" Glocester—Major Asa Kimball.
" Charlestown—Mr. Jonathan Haszard.
" West Greenwich—Mr. George Dyer.
" Coventry—Mr. Isaac Johnston.
" Exeter—John Chapman, Esq.
" Bristol—Mr. John Howland, Jr.
" Tiverton—Pardon Gray, Esq.
" Little Compton—Mr. Adam Simmons.
" Warren—William Turner Miller, Esq.
" Cumberland—James Lovett, Esq.
" Richmond—Mr. Jonathan Maxson.
" Cranston—Christopher Lippitt, Esq.
" Hopkinton—Thomas Wells, Esq.
" Johnston—Andrew Harris, Esq.
" North Providence—Hope Angell, Esq.
" Barrington—Josiah Humphrey, Esq.

And that they make report of their proceedings to this Assembly at the next session.

And it is further resolved, that a copy hereof be immediately transmitted to each of the aforesaid persons.

Resolved, that all persons who are by law obliged to equip themselves with a good fire-arm, bayonet and cartouch box; and who shall not, by report of the town council of the town to which they belong, be reported to said town incapable of providing themselves as aforesaid, do provide themselves therewith by the first day of July next, agreeably to law; or with a rifle gun and sword in lieu thereof, upon the penalty of £9, lawful money, for a gun, and £1 10*s.*, for a cartouch box and belt.

That each captain shall make a return of all such persons as shall be delinquent within his district, to his colonel or commanding officer; who is hereby directed to make report thereof to the town treasurer of the town where such delinquent resides; and the said town treasurer is directed immediately to issue his warrant of distress to the sheriff or deputy of the county within which the delinquent resides, for the fines which may be due, agreeably to this resolve; and that the same be lodged in the town treasury of the town within which such delinquent resides, to be accounted for, when required, to this Assembly.

Provided, that nothing herein contained, shall extend to any person who shall produce a certificate to his colonel, that his gun has been taken from him for public service, and not accounted for, since the commencement of the present war; and that report be also made to this Assembly.

It is further resolved, that a copy hereof, be forthwith transmitted to each of the colonels of regiments, and captains of the militia and alarm companies, within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Solomon Barrows be, and he is hereby, appointed ensign of the first company of militia in the town of Smithfield, in the room of William Gulley, who declines.

That Thomas Easterbrooks be first lieutenant of the company of militia, in the town of Warren, in the room of Smith Bowen, who is hereby dismissed.

That Gideon Harris be ensign of the company of militia in the town of Scituate, commanded by Capt. Coomer Smith, in the room of Samuel Angell, who declines.

That Thomas Congdon be lieutenant of the first company of militia in the town of Cranston, in the room of Josias Potter, who has removed out of the district of the said first company.

And that Moses Warner be ensign in the said company last mentioned, in the room of said Thomas Congdon, who is promoted.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of Bristol preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that in the late excursion of the enemy from Newport, through that town, they in a most savage manner burnt and destroyed their dwelling houses, furniture, clothing, &c.

That they are become beggars, and live upon the charity of their friends and neighbors; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to take their distressed circumstances into consideration, and grant them some relief; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that Nathaniel Fales, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £330, lawful money, out of the general treasury; and that he deliver the same to the town council of the town of Bristol, to be by them distributed to the petitioners, and the other sufferers in the late excursion of the enemy, according to their real wants and necessities.

It is voted and resolved, that the draft of a letter to Governor Trumbull, presented unto this Assembly by the committee appointed for that purpose be, and the same is hereby, approved of; and that a fair copy thereof, signed by His Excellency the Governor, in behalf of this Assembly, be transmitted to His Excellency Governor Trumbull.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the Hon. Major General Sullivan, to take up all persons who are suspected or known to be unfriendly to this state, or to the United States, in general, that he shall think proper, and proceed

against them according to the known practice in such cases in the army under the immediate command of His Excellency General Washington.

It is further resolved, that in case of an alarm, Major General Sullivan, or the commander of the troops within this state, for the time being, be empowered, with the advice and concurrence of His Excellency the Governor, if present, or in his absence, of His Honor the Deputy Governor, to call forth the militia, alarm and independent companies, or any part thereof, to do duty, which they shall be held to do, within this state only, unless in cases of imminent danger, when they may be marched to any place within his command.

And that when any draught shall be made, in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly, the proper officer shall make immediate and exact returns thereof to the commander for the time being, as aforesaid.

It is further resolved, that every officer and soldier who shall neglect or refuse to do his duty when so called, and every person who shall be so draughted, and shall not appear, or procure an effective man in his room, shall be liable to be called to account, and punished for disobedience of orders, or refusal or neglect of duty, in the same manner as officers and soldiers in actual service may be; excepting persons of tender consciences, for whom the town councils of the respective towns shall provide effective men, in manner as directed by an act passed in April, A. D. 1777, in addition to the act for relief of persons of tender consciences.

It is further resolved, that this act shall continue in force until the meeting of this Assembly at the next session, and no longer; and that copies of it be immediately delivered to Major General Sullivan, and to the several commanding officers of the regiments of militia, alarm and independent companies, within this state.

Whereas, great inconveniences arise from an order of the council of war, made the 21st day of March last, directing—

"That the colonels of each regiment, which did belong to the fifteen months' brigade, within this state, lodge with John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier, an exact list of the names of the several men lately belonging to their respective regiments, who have any clothing due to them from the state, with an account of each particular garment that is respectively due to them; and that the said clothier, upon any person named in said list, bringing unto him a certificate from the colonel, what clothing is due from this state to such person, that the said agent-clothier deliver the same unto such person, or pay the value of such clothing in money, taking a receipt therefor."

For remedy whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that, in future, upon receipt of the return from each respective colonel of the said battalions, by the agent-clothier, of the names of those persons, in their late regiments, to whom clothing is due, and specifying particularly the several articles so due to each, that he deliver to the said colonels so much clothing as shall be due, or pay for the same, or any part thereof, in money; and that the said colonel deliver out the same to the several persons to whom it shall be due; or in lieu thereof, pay the allowed prices therefor, taking receipts from each person for what shall be delivered or paid; which receipts, being returned to the agent-clothier, shall cancel and discharge their respective receipts, given to him for such clothing or money.

An Act for calling in and sinking all the outstanding bills of credit emitted by this state.

[See printed Schedule for the act.]

In Council was read the return of the officers chosen to command the Glocester Light Infantry Company, which are as follows, to wit:

Timothy Wilmarth, Jr., captain; Martin Smith, first lieuten-

ant; Caleb Sheldon, second lieutenant; Ezekiel Smith, ensign.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier in this state, deliver to the officers of the brigade, ordered to be raised within this state, and to do duty for twelve months, from the 16th day of March last, such necessary articles of clothing, and at such prices, as are specified in a resolve of Congress of the 22d day of November last, upon their producing a certificate from Gen. Sullivan, of the proportion to be furnished them respectively, agreeably to said resolve.

An Act for the better regulating the Council of War.

Whereas, this General Assembly did, on the 13th day of December, A. D. 1776, constitute a council of war, and did, in and by said act, delegate unto said council the authority and powers in said act mentioned; and whereas, heretofore the state hath not been equally represented in said council; in order therefore, for the better and more equal representation of the state at large,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is hereby enacted, that the said council of war shall consist of twenty-one members; whereof, three shall be for the county of Newport; six for the county of Providence; six for the county of Kings; three for the county of Bristol, and three for the county of Kent; seven of whom, shall constitute a quorum.

That said council, composed of the members from the different counties as aforesaid, convene in the recess of the General Assembly, as often as His Excellency the Governor, or in his absence, His Honor the Deputy Governor shall think it necessary, for the good purposes for which said council was instituted.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

unless there is a member from four of said counties, said council shall not be deemed clothed with sufficient powers to make any resolve whatever.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that not more than three members from any county shall sit at one time, to do the ordinary business of said council, but may be convened upon extraordinary occasions.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the members appointed and constituted to compose said council, shall be first convened by order of the Governor; and that they then appoint when they shall next convene, in order to do the ordinary business of said council, and publish the same in the Providence Gazette, and also the times when and where they shall adjourn; and that there be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to each and every member, the sum of twelve shillings per day, for each and every day they shall convene themselves agreeably to this act, together with all their reasonable expenses; and there shall be further allowed unto each of the members, living out of the county where said council shall be called, one day extra, for their times in convening and returning home.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the members from each county shall attend in rotation, unless otherwise agreed to by the members from the said county.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no member of the General Assembly, but those who are appointed of the council of war, shall be entitled to any vote in said council.

Resolved, that the act permitting inoculation within this state, and all acts made in addition to, and amendment thereof, be, and they are hereby, suspended until the 1st day of October next.

Provided nevertheless, that permission be, and is hereby, given for inoculating the soldiers who have or may enlist into the Continental battalions raising by this state, in

the farm-house belonging to Dr. Joseph Joslyn, in the town of East Greenwich, about four miles from the compact part thereof.

Provided also, that the inhabitants of the town of North Providence may be inoculated; or, if they should take the small pox in the natural way, that they may be removed to a hospital, which may be ordered within said town, by the town council thereof, to be under their direction, and under the rules and regulations as is provided in the aforementioned acts.

It is further resolved, that if any person shall be guilty of inoculating any persons, or aiding, assisting or advising thereto, within this state, contrary to this resolve, he shall forfeit and pay a fine of £30, lawful money, for each person who shall be so inoculated, contrary to the tenor hereof, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within this state; one-half thereof, to and for the use of the informer, and the remainder for the use of this state.

And it is ordered, that a copy hereof, be published in the next Providence Gazette, and sent to each town clerk within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the attorney general be, and he is hereby, directed to prosecute any persons who have been, or may be, guilt of a breach of an act of this Assembly passed at the last session, entitled "An act in addition to, and amendment of, an act permitting inoculation for the small pox within this state, to the first courts proper to try the same."

It is voted and resolved, that the bounties allowed to the soldiers who may enlist into the brigade ordered to be raised within this state, be paid in Continental bills of credit; and that the committees appointed to receive the said bounties, receive the same in Continental bills accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war be, and they are hereby, empowered to excuse from personal duty

in the militia, such persons as may from time to time be employed within this state, in manufacturing military stores and other articles for the use of the United States, agreeably to the true intent and meaning of a resolution of Congress of the 1st of May, A. D. 1778.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following gentlemen to constitute a council of war;

Names of the Members of the Council of War.

For the county of Newport—Henry Ward, Esq., Thomas Rumreil, Esq., Pardon Gray, Esq.

For the county of Providence—Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq., John Sayles, Esq., Gideon Comstock, Esq., John Updike, Esq., James Lovett, Esq., Esek Hopkins, Esq.

For the county of Kings—Hon. Joshua Babcock, Esq., Immanuel Case, Esq., Rowse J. Helme, Esq., Thomas Wells, Esq., John Northup, Esq., George Peirce, Esq.

For the county of Bristol—Nathan Miller, Esq., Cromel Child, Esq., Josiah Humphrey, Esq.

For the county of Kent—His Excellency William Greene, Esq., James Arnold, Esq., Stephen Potter, Esq.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Pardon Gray, John Jenckes, Rowse J. Helme, Nathan Miller and Thomas Tillinghast, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to prepare a bill for taking a just estimate of the ratable estates in this state, in order that an equitable proportion of taxes may be assessed upon the several towns.

That they make report to this Assembly at the next session; and that the council of war be empowered to appoint suitable persons in the stead of such as shall refuse, taking care to appoint persons in the same county with those refusing.

It is voted and resolved, that the draft of a letter to the Council of the Massachusetts Bay, presented unto this As-

sembly by the committee appointed for that purpose, be, and the same is hereby, approved; and that a fair copy thereof, signed by His Excellency the Governor, be transmitted to the president of the Council of Massachusetts Bay.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£ s. d.
Capt. George Simmons, in behalf of a part of his company, who did duty in October last	84 00 00
Charles Church, for a number of guns by him purchased for the use of the inhabitants of the town of Charlestown	49 03 06
Major James Sumner, to furnish the armorer's shop with such necessaries as may be wanted, authorized to draw out of the general treasury	40 00 00
William Channing, for his expenses in attending on the General Assembly, as assistant clerk	5 10 00

God save the United States of America.

Governor Trumbull of Connecticut to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Hartford, May 19th, 1778.

Sir:—As it is of the utmost importance in the great contest in which we are engaged, that unanimity and harmony should subsist and be maintained, and a similarity of measures be pursued by the respective states, it is with great anxiety and concern we hear that your state, with any other, have hitherto declined acceding to those necessary and salutary measures reported by the convention at New Haven, in compliance with and pursuance of a resolution of Congress, recommending the same.

And though many objections and difficulties lie in the way, and much delicacy seemed to attend, yet considering it was the united voice of these states, that pointed out the expediency, utility and necessity of the measure; and being the only means that could be devised, for giving an immediate check to the rapid depreciation and extortion, which, like a deluge, seemed to threaten us with immediate ruin, unless restrained by some sovereign act, until the more effectual and radical, but slower remedies of taxation, &c., could be applied, felt and perceived; which when effected, and the tide once changed, the regulating system, having thus answered the end designed, would of course fall to the ground like a useless machine.

Impressed with these ideas, this state were induced to comply fully with the measures recommended, confiding in our sister states, that they would do the same, and not break that union and interrupt that harmony, on which our safety so much depends.

And though no state is perhaps more affected in its relative interest, by the regulation than this, as the army have drawn, and still continue to draw, their chief supplies,

especially of her meat kind, from hence; yet every partial view has been obliged to give way to the voice of the convention, the voice of Congress, and the general good.

Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, we understand, have adopted the measures, and are determined to enforce them; with whom we shall fully co-operate. And had the eastern states done the same, we cannot but imagine we should have seen, ere this, very happy effects therefrom. But your neglecting it, has thrown us into great embarrassments, and proves very injurious to those states that have come into the measure, and must eventually tend to ruin and defeat the whole.

We must beg leave, therefore, to call your immediate attention to this important object, and request your determination thereon, that we might be enabled to take such further measures as may be found requisite.

At the same time, we cannot but flatter ourselves, from your former readiness to join such measures as have heretofore been thought necessary for the general good, that you will most cheerfully co-operate with us in this most salutary and important plan.

I am, with esteem and regard,

(in behalf of the Assembly of the state of Connecticut),

Your Honor's most obedient, humble servant,

JONATH. TRUMBULL.

His Excellency William Greene, Esq.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Governor Trumbull.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Council Chamber, Providence, 26th May, 1778.

Sir:—This is to inform you, that a party of about seven hundred of the enemy landed upon the eastern part of this state the night before last, towards break of day, and burnt about thirty houses and stores in the towns of Bristol and Warren; as also our flat-bottom boats, to the number of about seventy or eighty, which lay at a place called Kickemuit, which has greatly alarmed the inhabitants of this state; especially, as we have been for a considerable time past almost entirely neglected by our sister states not assisting with their quota of troops, according to the agreement entered into by the convention at Springfield; and unless we can be better furnished for the future, I see nothing to hinder immediate destruction from taking place; for unless the major part of our militia are continually upon duty, the shores cannot properly be guarded; and in that case, we shall very soon be deprived of the necessaries of life; that considering our unhappy situation, and how distressing the season has now opened, I am convinced I need not use any further arguments to convince you of the necessity of your states' sending forward their troops with the utmost despatch.

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

W. GREENE.

To Governor Trumbull and President Powell.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Governor Trumbull.

Providence, May 29th, 1778.

Sir :—General Wadsworth and Mr. Hillhouse, the committee appointed by your General Assembly to confer with this and the state of the Massachusetts Bay upon the measure recommended by the convention at New Haven, for reducing the exorbitant prices of commodities, by regulating their rates, have delivered me Your Excellency's letter of the 19th instant; which I laid before the General Assembly this morning.

The local situation of this government, bounded on the north and east by the Massachusetts for an extent of upwards of sixty miles, together with the most unhappy circumstance of being shut out from every kind of supply by sea, renders us so connected with that great state, that the General Assembly, thinking it could not answer any one intention of the Congress or convention, for this state to adopt the measure without a concurrent conduct on the part of Massachusetts Bay, and would involve us in the greatest of difficulties, have come to a resolution to postpone the consideration of the matter to a future day.

I will just add, that this state, as it hath ever done, will, upon all occasions, cooperate with the sister states in every measure that shall be agreed upon for the good of the whole.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

WM. GREENE.

To Gov. Trumbull.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the Council of the State of Massachusetts.

Providence, May 31, 1778.

Gentlemen :—The exposed situation of the frontier state of Rhode Island, hath ever been an object that engaged the attention and claimed the exertions of the other New England states in her favor; and this she had a right to expect after the mutual agreement of their convention at Springfield, and its ratification by the Continental Congress.

But the moderation with which our sister states have of late conducted, in a matter of such importance, has thrown us under the greatest disadvantages, and we already feel its distressing consequences; by the late descent of the enemy, the public as well as this state, have suffered a very considerable loss; and they are now, at this moment, burning and ravaging the towns of Tiverton and Freetown.

We have ordered our battalions to be filled by apportioning them to the several towns, who are to furnish their quotas by the 10th of June, under severe penalties for neglect; and in addition to those already raised, have one-sixth part of our militia, alarm and independent companies, constantly on duty; and shall make every other exertion in our power, to defend ourselves, until the stipulated aids arrive. And we do, in the most earnest manner, call upon the state of Massachusetts Bay immediately to send in their quota of troops, and rescue us from the destruction that otherwise must ensue. I am yours, &c., WM. GREENE.

To the Council of Massachusetts Bay.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the last Monday in June, 1778.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, a committee was appointed at the last session of this Assembly, to inquire into the number of guns, bayonets and cartouch boxes, which have been purchased in behalf of this state, within their respective towns, agreeably to a former resolution of this Assembly; the number of the said guns now remaining in the said towns, and if any are missing, to whom they were delivered, and who were appointed to purchase the same,—

It is voted and resolved, that said committee be, and they are hereby, continued, for the purpose aforesaid; and that they make the said inquiry, and a report thereof, to this Assembly, at the next session.

Whereas, this Assembly, at December second session, A. D. 1777, did pass an act, appointing a committee to draft a bill for confiscating and making sale of all the real and personal estates, of such of the inhabitants of this state and others, who have forfeited the same, and their right to the protection of this state; and to invest the moneys arising from the sales, in Continental loan-office certificates, to be appropriated as shall be hereafter directed by the legislative authority of this state, agreeably to the recommendation of Congress, of the 22d of November last; and whereas, said committee have not yet made any report, agreeably to said resolve; and whereas, Henry Marchant, Esq., one of the said committee, is now necessarily absent; wherefore—

Resolved, that the Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq., together with

Henry Ward, Rowse J. Helme and William Channing, Esqs., three of the committee heretofore appointed, be, and they are hereby, continued a committee for the purpose aforesaid.

That they make report to this Assembly at the next session; and that a copy of this resolve be transmitted to each of said committee, within ten days after the rising of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. David Austin be permitted to take off the rye and wheat growing on the farm lately improved by him, in the town of Exeter, without any molestation from Mr. Samuel Carr, the present tenant.

Whereas, many of the inhabitants of the town of Newport, with their families, are detained until others now on the main are permitted to go on the island of Rhode Island,—

It is voted and resolved, that General Sullivan be, and he is hereby, requested to effect an exchange and release of the families who are detained, as aforesaid; and that he permit such of the families now on the main, with their household furniture and wearing apparel, to go on said island, as shall be necessary for that purpose.

Whereas, Joseph James, lieutenant of the third company of militia, in West Greenwich, preferred a petition and represented unto this Assembly, that he, with Ensign Randall Spencer, were ordered to join Capt. Benjamin Gorton's company, in the late intended expedition against Rhode Island.

That they served their tour of duty, and Capt. Gorton made out an abstract for one month's pay, which was objected to by General Cornell and the committee, by reason that there were more officers in said company than are allowed by law; and that his name and Spencer's were erased out of said abstract, whereby they have lost the benefit of having any wages for their service; and thereupon, the said Joseph James prayed this Assembly, to grant such a sum

of money as shall be equal to their wages; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be referred to General Cornell, Colonel Lippitt and Mr. Nathaniel Mumford; and that they make report to this Assembly at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Edward Perry, Theodore Foster and Thomas Rumreil, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to regulate the fees of the officers within this state.

That they raise such penalties as are too low; and that they make report to this Assembly at the present or next session.

It is voted and resolved, that this Assembly approve of the sentence of a court martial, held on the 13th of June last, laying a fine of £40, lawful money, each, upon Philip Mowry and David Mowry; and that the Honorable Major General Sullivan be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit an authentic copy of said sentence to the town clerk of the town of Smithfield, who is hereby empowered and required on receipt thereof, immediately to issue a warrant of distress, directed to the town sergeant or either of the constables within said town, returnable within thirty days, commanding them, or either of them, to distrain so much of the goods and chattels of the said David and Philip respectively, as shall be sufficient to satisfy and pay the said sums of £40, for each of them, together with all lawful costs.

That so much thereof, as will be sufficient to hire persons in their room, for the tour of duty in which they have been deficient, be applied to that purpose, by the town council of said town of Smithfield, immediately.

That the residue (if any) be lodged in the treasury of said town, as the property of said Philip and David Mowry, in order to be applied to the same purposes, so far as the same will extend, on future similar occasions, or that the same be restored to the said Philip and David Mowry,

whenever they apply therefor; provided, such application be made any time before the same be expended; and that the officer levying the warrants, pay said fines to said town clerk, to be appropriated agreeably to said sentence.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the officer who shall receive the said warrant, shall proceed and execute the same in such manner as other warrants of distress are by law directed to be executed; and that the secretary furnish Gen. Sullivan, and the town clerk of Smithfield, each with an attested copy of this resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to Gen. Sullivan, to order a trial of Bernard Miller, by a court martial; and that he order the sentence of said court, being by him first approved, to be carried into execution.

It is voted and resolved, that the resolution of this Assembly, passed at the last session, empowering Gen. Sullivan to apprehend disaffected persons, and subjecting the militia, alarm and independent companies, when lawfully called forth, to martial law, be, and the same is hereby, revised.

That the same continue in force until the meeting of this Assembly at the next session, and no longer; and that a copy of this resolve be transmitted to Gen. Sullivan, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the non-commissioned officers and privates of the militia and alarm companies of the town of Little Compton, who have done duty within said town since the 6th day of November last, be allowed as a bounty, after the rate of forty shillings per month; and that they be paid, accordingly.

Whereas, Capt. Thomas Allin laid before this Assembly a return of sundry articles of clothing, belonging to the soldiers in his company; and also of one gun and accoutrements, and one silver-mounted hanger belonging to himself, which were destroyed and taken by the British troops, who landed at Bristol; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the consideration of said return be referred to the council of war.

An Act for carrying into execution a resolve of Congress, laying an embargo on the exportation of all kinds of provisions from this state.

Whereas, the Honorable Continental Congress did, on the 8th day of June last, pass a resolve, laying an embargo, prohibiting the exportation of wheat, flour, rye, Indian corn, rice, bread, beef, pork, bacon, live stock, and other provisions, from and after the 10th day of the same June, until the 15th day of November next, unless sooner revoked; provided, that said embargo shall not be construed to prevent the taking on board such provisions as shall be necessary, for the stores only of any ships or vessels of war, or others, trading to and from these states; and did thereupon recommend to the respective states, to take the most effectual measures for carrying the said resolution into immediate execution; in conformity whereto,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that from and after the rising of this Assembly, the master of every ship or vessel, as well those bound on foreign voyages as coasters, shall, previous to their sailing, produce to either of the intendants of trade within this state, a true manifest, under oath, of all the provisions which he hath on board said vessel for the use of his crew; specifying therein the different qualities and quantities of provisions which he hath on board such ship or vessel; and thereupon, the said intendant shall give to the master of such ship or vessel a bill of stores, permitting him to carry the provisions therein specified; provided, it shall appear to the said intendant, that the quantity therein contained, is not more than sufficient for the use of the crew of such ship or vessel.

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the commander of every armed vessel, applying at the secreta-

ry's office for a commission, or letters of marque and reprisal, shall, previous to his receiving the same, render a true manifest, under oath, of all the provisions which he hath on board such ship or vessel, for the subsistence of the crew thereof, specifying therein the different quantities and qualities of provisions; and thereupon, the said secretary shall deliver to the commander of such private ship or vessel of war, a bill of stores, permitting him to carry the provisions therein specified; provided, it shall appear to him that the quantity therein contained, is not more than is sufficient for the crew of such ship or vessel of war.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the intendants of trade, within this state, or either of their deputies, be, and they are hereby, directed to search every vessel within their respective districts, as well private vessels of war as merchantman or coasters; and if they shall find on board a greater quantity of provisions than is contained in said bill of stores, that it shall and may be lawful, and the said intendants or either of them, or either of their deputies, are hereby directed and fully empowered to seize the quantity more than is contained in said bill of stores, and to lodge an information against the same, before the judge of the maritime court within this state, who is hereby directed to proceed therein, agreeably to the act for the trial of prize causes within this state; and on condemnation thereof, shall order and decree said goods to be sold at public vendue, and shall order the one-third part thereof, after deducting all charges of trial and condemnation, be delivered to the informer or prosecutor, and the other two-thirds to be paid into the general treasury, to and for the use of this state.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every master of a vessel, as well private vessels of war as merchantmen or coasters, who shall be detected in carrying or having on board his ship or vessel any greater quantity of provisions than is in this act specified, shall forfeit and pay as a fine, to and for the use of this state, the sum of

£500, lawful money, to be recovered by bill, plaint, or information, in any court of record within this state.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that dried and pickled fish be added to the number of prohibited articles referred to in the afore-recited resolve of Congress.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this act shall continue and be in force, until the 15th day of November next, unless sooner repealed by this Assembly; and that a copy thereof, be inserted in the Providence Gazette three weeks successively, that all persons concerned, may have notice thereof.

Whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that Mr. John Read, who hath lately come off from the island of Rhode Island, voluntarily joined the enemy on said island, put himself under the protection, and acknowledged himself a subject of His Britannic Majesty; and hath thereby forfeited the protection of this and the United States; wherefore—

Resolved, that it be, and hereby is, earnestly recommended to the Hon. Major General Sullivan, to order the said John Read to be apprehended and confined; and that the General, as soon as conveniency will admit, send said John Read back to the enemy upon Rhode Island.

It is voted and resolved, that John Nichols be appointed ensign of the First Company of Militia, in the town of Exeter, in the room of John Congdon, Jr., who declines.

That Benj. Thomas, be captain; Wm. Collins, lieutenant; and Wm. Clarke, ensign, of the Second Company, in the said town; and that Geo. Willcox, be captain; John Bates (son of Samuel), lieutenant; and Jonathan Lillibridge, ensign, of the Third Company, in the same town.

This Assembly, at the last session, having ordered eight hundred and thirty-nine men to be raised by the 10th of June last, for filling up the state's brigade, ordered at the session in December last, and apportioned the same to the several towns; some of which have not raised the quota

assigned them, and requested a further time for that purpose,—

It is therefore resolved, that such delinquent towns shall keep up in the field so many men from the militia, alarm and independent companies, in such town, as they are deficient in their quota, as aforesaid, until the same shall be completed.

That the militia so doing duty, shall be entitled to the Continental wages and rations only.

That such delinquent towns be empowered to raise the deficient numbers as aforesaid, on or before the 16th day of July, inst.; and that the men so enlisting, shall receive the wages, bounties and rations allowed by the said resolve.

That the colonel or commanding officer of the respective regiments of militia in this state, be directed to make inquiry from time to time, of the numbers of men raised by the several towns in their respective districts, as their quota as aforesaid, and to draught a sufficient number out of the militia, alarm and independent companies, to make good such deficiency, who shall do duty for fifteen days each.

That the men which shall be so draughted, do duty in the companies, and under the command of officers, in the twelve months' brigade.

That such towns as shall enlist their quotas by the said time, shall be excused the fines they may have incurred by their delinquency; and that the town clerks of the delinquent towns make a return of the numbers of men by them enlisted within the time limited, to the council of war, on the 17th day of July inst.

And it is ordered, that a copy hereof, be immediately transmitted to the said town clerks.

Whereas, Daniel Chace, of North Kingstown, in the county of Kings, yeoman, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that he is a true and faithful subject of, and bears true faith and allegiance to, the United States of America in general, and to this state in particular.

That he hath complied with all the rules and orders of the state, and hath at all times and upon all occasions done duty as a soldier.

That he was an inhabitant of the island of Prudence, was driven from thence, and had most of his estate destroyed by the British forces.

That his father, James Chace, is now, and for the space of thirty years, hath been an inhabitant of Middletown, on Rhode Island, but hath never joined the British forces in any measure or degree; and that his said father was the owner of a certain farm in the town of Little Compton, upon which his brother lately dwelt, until dispossessed by order of this Assembly, but for what reasons he knows not; and thereupon, the said Daniel Chace prayed this Assembly to take the premises into consideration, and grant him the benefit of said farm, to and for his own use; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that said petition be referred.

That Peter Phillips, Pardon Gray, Nathaniel Searle and William Cooke, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to inquire into the truth of the facts therein contained; and that they make report thereof to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the intendant for the port of Providence, be, and he is hereby, directed to clear out about four tons of bread for the privateer sloop Gen. Stark, owned by Nathan Miller and others of this state; which vessel is now at New London, and bound on a cruise against the enemies of the United States.

Whereas, Akraw Remington, a negro man slave, belonging to Mr. Benjamin Remington, hath enlisted into the Continental service, agreeably to a resolution of this Assembly, and hath been appraised by the committee appointed for that purpose, and valued at £120, lawful money,—

It is voted resolved, that the said Benjamin Remington be allowed the said sum of £120; and that he be paid the

same out of the general treasury, upon his producing and delivering to the treasurer a certificate of said appraisement.

Whereas, Beriah Brown, Esq., presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

Report of the Sheriff of Kings county, relative to the estates of William Robinson and Samuel Gardner, of South Kingstown.

In obedience to the order of the General Assembly, I have inquired into the present situation of the estates of William Robinson and Samuel Gardner, situate in South Kingstown, and do report:

That it appears by a certificate from the town clerk of South Kingstown, that the estate of William Robinson is mortgaged to Sylvester Robinson, for four thousand and thirty Spanish silver milled dollars, payable the 13th day of March, A. D. 1773. The said Sylvester, who is in possession of the premises, informs me, that the said William owed him a sum of money which was not contained in the mortgage.

It also appears by a certificate from said town clerk, that the estate of Samuel Gardner is mortgaged to Thomas Brown, for one hundred and sixty-seven Spanish silver milled dollars, payable the 25th day of March, A. D. 1772. Abijah Babcock, the present tenant, informed me that he is to give said Gardner for said estate, $150, five hundred weight of pork, and the cutting some brush, per year; and that he now owes said Gardner two years' rent.

Which is submitted by Your Honors' most humble servant,

July 2, 1778. BERIAH BROWN, Sheriff.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

That the consideration thereof, be referred to the next session of this Assembly.

That the said Abijah Babcock, who is the tenant in possession of said estate, belonging to the said Samuel Gardner, retain in his hands the back and future rents of said estate, until the further orders of this Assembly; and that a copy hereof be forthwith transmitted to the said Abijah Babcock.

Whereas, by a resolution of this Assembly, passed at May session, 1778, John Cook, Esq., was required to appear before this Assembly, to render an account of his conduct in purchasing a quantity of clothing for the use of this

state, which hath been adjudged unfit for service; and the said John Cook having appeared, agreeably to said resolution, and this Assembly have examined into the matter,—

It is voted and resolved, that the conduct of the said John Cook be approved of, so far as respects the purchasing of the cloth.

But as the said clothing, or part, thereof, are badly made, and too small for the use for which they were intended, that the making of such of the clothing as are badly made, be deducted from his accounts.

That if any of said clothing shall, upon examination, be found too small for any person in the service, that they be returned to the said John Cook, and be also deducted from his account.

And that Stephen Potter, Esq., and Messrs. James Lovett and Paul Allen, be, and they are hereby appointed a committee to examine said clothing; and that they make report thereof, to the council of war.

Whereas, there is a large quantity of clothing now in the possession of the agent-clothier in this state, which was delivered in by the committees of safety, and it was necessary to alter the same,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., the agent-clothier, have the same altered in the best manner he can, and deliver them out to the troops now doing duty in this state.

That the committee appointed to examine the clothing returned into said store by John Cook, Esq.; also examine the clothing above referred to.

That such of the said clothing as may be adjudged by them unfit for the use of the said troops, be not altered or delivered out; and that the said committee make report thereof, to this Assembly, or in the recess thereof, to the council of war.

Whereas, Gideon Comstock and Christopher Lippitt, Esqs., two of the committee who were appointed to examine what

allowance should be made to the troop of horse for their service, presented unto this Assembly the following report and account, to wit:

Report of the Committee upon the Allowance to be made to the Troop of Horse.

Agreeably to appointment, have taken the petition of the officers of the troop of horse into consideration, and report our opinion as follows:

That the commissioned officers ought to be allowed the same wages from time to time, as are allowed to the alarm and militia officers of equal commissions, doing duty at the same time, and the same number of rations as are allowed the several militia officers with whom they respectively rank.

And your committee are of opinion, that the same bounties, wages and rations, ought to be allowed the non-commissioned officers and privates, as are allowed the non-commissioned officers and privates of the alarm list and militia.

That they be allowed for the service of their horses, the same per day as the privates; and as to rations for their horses going express, that they be allowed the same as are allowed in the Continental army.

Submitted by your humble servants, GIDEON COMSTOCK,
CHRISTOPHER LIPPITT,
Committee.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kent forthwith take possession of all the personal estate, wherever it may be found, of Francis Corey, who hath joined the enemy on the island of Rhode Island.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said sheriff immediately lease the real estate of Joseph Hunt, Jr., who hath also joined the enemy (excepting the house belonging to the father of the said Joseph Hunt, Jr., and one acre of land), in the same manner and upon the same conditions as the real estates in the possession of the state have been heretofore leased; and that he make report to this Assembly, or in the recess thereof, to the council of war.

Whereas, John Cook, Esq., colonel, and Pardon Gray, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia for the county of Newport, represented unto this Assembly, that the second company of militia in Tiverton, is become too numerous for one company, and therefore prayed that the said second company be divided into two distinct and separate companies, in the following manner, to wit:

That all the men north of Quackett Brook, to Samuel Borden's house on the country road; and from thence, to John Cook's saw mill, south, and to the westward of Stafford's Ponds; and thence, up the road that leads to Bedford, until it meets Dartmouth line; and thence, north, into Cranberry Neck, may compose the second company.

That all the men from Samuel Borden's house, to the north, as far as Fall River line; thence, east, up to Waltuppy Pond, and over the said pond, taking in all that part called Waltuppy; and also, all the men in the road, called Stafford's Road, may compose the third company.

That officers may be appointed for the said two companies; and that they be commissioned accordingly; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority hereof, it is enacted, that the prayer of the aforegoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the said second company in Little Compton, be, and the same is hereby, divided into two distinct companies, in manner, and according to the lines above described.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £32,000, lawful money, be levied on the inhabitants of this state, to be collected and paid into the general treasury by the 1st day of October next, including a tax of £7,500, lawful money, being the one-fourth part of the tax recommended by a resolution of Congress of the 22d of November last, to be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, in the course of the year 1778.

That it be apportioned by the apportionment, and in the manner whereby the last tax was apportioned; excepting that one-eighth part of the apportioned value of the town of Bristol be deducted from the said apportionment.

That the poll-tax be sixpence for every £1,000.

That Mr. Nathaniel Mumford apportion said tax, and draft an act accordingly; and that he report the same to the council of war, as soon as may be; which being accept-

ed by the council, shall pass as an act of this Assembly, and copies thereof, be sent to the several town clerks.

The following is the act reported to the council of war, agreeably to the foregoing resolve, and approved by them:

An Act assessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £32,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state.

[Here follows the act.]

It is voted and resolved, that the militia, alarm and independent companies, including the militia guards now on duty, be forthwith discharged, exceping such of the militia, independent and alarm companies, as are ordered by a resolution of this Assembly to be drafted to make up the quotas of troops heretofore assigned to the several towns to be raised to do duty in the twelve months' brigade.

That one-quarter part of the alarm and militia companies of Little Compton be continued on duty, till further orders from the Assembly or the council of war; and that Major General Sullivan be furnished with an authenticated copy hereof.

It is voted and resolved, that John Colwell, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed lieutenant colonel, and Joseph Knight, Esq., major, of the third regiment of militia in the county of Providence.

That Ebenezer Slocum be appointed captain, Benjamin Borden, lieutenant, and Jacob Sowle, ensign, of the second company of militia, in Tiverton; and that Benjamin Durfey, Jr., be appointed captain, Richard Durfey, lieutenant, and ——— Shearman, ensign, of the third company of militia, in the said town.

It is further voted and resolved, that Samuel Montgomery be appointed surgeon, and Stephen Munro, surgeon's mate, to Col. Crary's battalion.

That Stephen Wigneron be appointed surgeon to Col. Topham's regiment; and that the said Doctor Montgomery

be entitled to pay and rations from the 11th of June last, and the said Doctor Munro from the 28th of June last, being the times they respectively joined the said regiments.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., forthwith proceed in supplying the officers of the twelve months' brigade, agreeably to a resolution passed at the last session of this Assembly; the resolve of the council of war to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., deliver the clothing ordered to be furnished the officers of the twelve months' brigade, at the rate of four shillings, lawful money, for what cost one shilling, sterling.

Whereas, at a superior court of judicature, &c., held at South Kingstown, in April last, a real estate, mortgaged by one George Gardner, Jr., to Nicholas Easton, Esq., deceased, and given by the said Nicholas in and by his last will and testament to Nicholas Easton, now at Newport, was redeemed by George Tefft, to whom the equity of redemption had been conveyed.

And whereas, the redemption money was ordered by the said court to be paid to Daniel Rodman, the then clerk of the said court, which was done accordingly,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said Daniel Rodman pay the said money into the general treasury; and that the same be paid to the said Nicholas Easton, whenever he, or any person in his behalf, shall appear to demand the same, with interest from the time of its being received into the treasury.

Whereas, large sums of money have been received out of the treasury, for purchasing arms for the use of this state, great part of which remains unaccounted for; and whereas, salt, flour and iron, have been distributed to the several towns, for which a considerable sum of money is now due to the state,—

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford inquire into the sums of money received by any person within this state for the purpose aforesaid, and which have not

been accounted for; and also the balances which are due for the salt, flour and iron, distributed as aforesaid.

That he make report thereof, to the council of war; and that thereupon, the attorney general commence actions against the persons who have any balances in their hands due to the state, and shall not immediately pay the same, to special courts who are empowered to hear and determine the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Edward Weeden be lieutenant of the first company of militia, and Amos Jones lieutenant of the second company of militia, in the town of East Greenwich.

It is voted and resolved, that each field officer in the state's brigade, receive out of the agent-clothier's store, agreeably to a resolution of this Assembly, the following quantities of clothing, to wit:

Fourteen yards of shirting, one coat, one waistcoat, one pair of breeches, two pair of thread and one pair of worsted stockings, one pair of shoes, one hat, three-quarters of a yard of cambric, one yard and one-eighth of Holland for stocks, and two pocket handkerchiefs, with buttons, silk, thread and lining.

That each captain, surgeon and adjutant, shall receive ten yards and-a-half of linen, one coat, one waistcoat, one pair of breeches, two pair of thread and one pair of worsted stockings, one pair of shoes, one hat, half a yard of cambric, one yard and one-eighth of Holland for stocks, and two pocket handkerchiefs, with buttons, silk, thread and linings.

And that the other staff officers and subalterns shall receive ten yards and-a-half of linen, one coat, one waistcoat, one pair of breeches, two pair of thread and one pair of worsted stockings, one pair of shoes, one hat, half a yard of cambric, one yard and one-eighth of Holland for stocks and two pocket handkerchiefs, with buttons, silk, thread and linings.

It is voted and resolved, that the attorney general suffer a non-suit in the action commenced by Martin Seamans,

against the town treasurer of the town of Providence and others, upon a thirty per cent. bond, to Providence inferior court, June term, A. D. 1778.

It is voted and resolved, that permission be, and hereby is, granted to Capt. Gideon Freeborn, an inhabitant of this state, to proceed to the island of St. John's, in a boat or small vessel in ballast, in order to bring from the said island his effects that are there; and that the said effects be exempted from confiscation.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£ s. d.
James Congdon, 3d, for paying off the bounty abstracts of the regiment of milita under the command of Col. Noyes, authorized to draw out of the general treasury	440 00 00
John Northup, as one of the committee of safety, for paying the wages and bounties of the regiment of militia under the command of Col. Dyer, authorized to draw out of the general treasury	1,200 00 00
James Congdon, 3d, for discharging the pay abstracts of Joshua Pendleton and Samuel Thompson's companies, authorized to draw out of the general treasury	35 00 00
Thomas Tillinghast, for paying bounties to soldiers enlisted in East Greenwich	33 18 00
Stephen Mumford, for paying abstracts, authorized to draw out of the general treasury	300 00 00
Executors of Ezekiel Burr, for sundry bills against the state	9 03 7½
Executors of Ezekiel Burr, for the said Burr's time and expenses for two expresses to General Washington	5 08 00
Gideon Comstock and Christopher Lippitt, for their services as committee, in examining allowances to the troop of horse, &c.	2 14 00
William Wilbur, for billeting a number of soldiers stationed on Rhode Island; for carting cannon balls to Bristol Ferry; for transporting soldiers to Conanicut; for carting baggage, &c. &c.	6 15 07
William Wilbur, for boarding a number of workmen, going express to Gen. Washington, &c.	36 10 10
William Channing, for his expenses in attending on the General Assembly at the last session, as clerk	4 17 00
Thomas Spencer, for his attendance on the General Assembly, at the present session, &c.	3 12 00
Abraham Greene, for his attendance on the General Assembly at the present session	2 14 00

God save the United States of America.

Governor Trumbull of Connecticut to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Hartford, June 5th, 1778.

Sir:—Your letter of the 26th ult., has been duly received, as also Major General Sullivan's, and laid before the General Assembly, in their present sessions; and on their serious and mature consideration, I am to inform Your Excellency, that the Assembly, although they are sensible of your need of further aid, and feel for your distresses, yet apprehend it is not in their power, consistent with our own immediate safety, and many other attentions to, and engagements in, the common cause, to afford you, at present the assistance they would cheerfully do, would our circumstances and ability permit.

On the importunate request of General Washington and Major General Gates, we have ordered six battalions, raised by an act of the last Assembly, for our own defence, and with a view to yours, to join the latter at or near the North River; and three troops of light horse; and as a further aid, and for our own safety, have found it necessary in the present sessions to order two more battalions to be raised by a peremptory detachment.

These additional levies will greatly distress the husbandry, and with the large proportion we have furnished to the army, and various other Continental services, together with a great number in the privateering business, we have exceedingly drained this state of inhabitants fit for military duty; while those that remain, are extremely fatigued with the variety of services to which they have been called.

We have also reason to believe it much more probable the enemy will bend their way towards Hudson's River, or more immediately on this state, than any where further eastward; in either case, our utmost exertions will be wanted this way.

The contiguous and comparatively safe situation of Massachusetts Bay, and New Hampshire, renders it, we apprehend, more proper and reasonable they should afford you the necessary aid.

We have stipulated with Massacusetts for two hundred of the quota we were to furnish your state, in lieu of so many we supply for them to Major General Gates; and we trust those two states, whose circumstances so much better admit of it, will not leave you destitute of competent support.

The stipulation in this behalf, at Springfield, the last year, was then as near as possible performed on our part; but future events could not have been foreseen, and from the nature of the thing, it could not be understood to be perpetually binding; but with or without the obligation of any previous contract, we shall be equally willing to afford any of our sister states, on all occasions, every assistance in our power.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

JON'TH. TRUMBULL.

To Gov. Greene.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on Wednesday, the 2d day of September, 1778.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, by reason of the late expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island, the freemen of the several towns within this state were prevented from attending town meetings, for the choice of deputies to sit in the General Assembly to be convened on the last Monday in October next, at the times fixed by law,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that town meetings be held on the last Tuesday of September inst., in the several towns within this state (not in the possession of the enemy), at the place at which they were to be held for the choice of deputies to represent said towns in the General Assembly, on the last Monday in October next; and that such other officers be chosen, and business transacted, as would or might have been, had the meetings been held at the time fixed by law; and that the choice of deputies, to represent any of said towns, at said October session, be, and the same is hereby, declared null and void.

Ordered, that a copy hereof, be transmitted to the several town clerks within this state; and they are hereby directed to issue their warrants for calling town meetings, agreeably to this act.

Whereas, by means of the late expedition against Rhode Island, several towns within this state, have not received from the general treasurer their proportion of the loan office

certificates, for the state's money, which was by this General Assembly allotted, within the time stipulated; wherefore—

Resolved, that one month from the rising of this Assembly, be further given unto the several towns, which have not received their proportion of the said loan office certificates, to exchange their state's money for the same.

That in the mean time the general treasurer do not deliver out any of said loan office certificates to private persons.

That after the expiration of the term aforesaid, the said general treasurer exchange the said loan office certificates for this state's money, with any person who shall make application for the same; he reckoning the interest from the date of the said certificates to the time he shall deliver out the same, and receive the interest so arising, to and for the use and benefit of this state; and that a copy of this resolve be published in the next Providence Gazette, that all persons concerned, may have notice thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford collect the accounts for repairing and fitting out the sloop Diamond, and of flax seed purchased for the cargo of the said sloop; and that he lay the same before this Assembly as soon as may be.

Mr. Robert Potter having represented to this Assembly, that Mr. Rowse Potter was lately taken from North Kingstown, and is now a prisoner with the enemy, at Newport, and that he is desirous of obtaining his exchange,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Maj. General Sullivan be requested to grant a flag to the said Robert Potter, for the purpose aforesaid; and that he permit such articles of clothing and provisions as may be necessary for the use of the said Rowse Potter, to be carried in said flag.

Whereas, certain of the inhabitants of the towns of Johnston and Charlestown, who have enlisted into the twelve months' brigade, have received money of their respective towns in lieu of clothing,—

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war issue or-

ders on the colonels of the regiments to which they respectively belong, for the clothing due to such soldiers, in favor of the said towns.

Provided, the said towns shall produce to the said council the names of the men, and their receipts for the money, and shall engage to supply them with clothing while in service.

And provided also, that the siad clothing hath not been already received by the said soldiers.

It is voted and resolved, that the freemen of the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown, to the number of seven, at least, from each town, respectively, be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to meet at the places hereafter mentioned, viz.:

Those of the town of Newport, at the state house, in Providence.

Those of Portsmouth and Middletown, at the house of William Durfey, in Tiverton.

And those of Jamestown, at the house of Mathew Allin, in North Kingstown, on the last Tuesday of September inst., for the choice of deputies, to represent the said towns in the General Assembly, on the last Monday of October next.

Ordered, that a copy hereof, be published in the next Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the commission of Christopher Robinson, as captain-lieutenant in the regiment of artillery, which he prays leave to resign, be accepted; and that he be dismissed from the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., and Mr. John Jenckes be, and they are hereby, appointed to take into their care and custody the ship Aurora, with her appurtenances; the sloop Diamond, her cargo and appurtenances, and any articles purchased for the voyage intended to have been performed in the said sloop, and the oil in the possession of Mr. Christopher Sheldon belonging to the state; and that they sell the same at public vendue,

in such manner as they shall think will be most for the benefit of the state, after having advertised the same three weeks successively in the Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. James Lovett and Nathaniel Mumford be a committee, to wait on Major Gen. Sullivan, and request he will give an order in favor of the state, for provisions or money equivalent, in satisfaction of the provisions furnished by the militia, alarm and independent companies, who were called forth upon alarm; and in the late expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, by Peter Phillips, Esq., that some of the inhabitants of North Kingstown, who are supposed to be inimical to the liberties of the United States in general, and of this state in particular, have, since the arrival of the French fleet upon our coast, availed themselves of an act of the General Assembly, passed at the session held in May last, permitting all persons, who had not before that time subscribed the test, or declaration heretofore prescribed by an act of this state, to subscribe the same within the time therein limited, before the town councils of the towns in which they may reside; and whereas, sundry persons in the said town, have, in consequence thereof, signed the said act before the said town councils, contrary to the true intent and meaning thereof,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the subscriptions of all persons within the said town of North Kingstown, who have subscribed the test, before the town council of North Kingstown, since the session of this Assembly, last held in East Greenwich, be declared null and void to all intents and purposes whatever, as though they had not subscribed the same.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby declared to be the intent and meaning of this Assembly, that any and every person who shall appear before the town council of the said town of North Kingstown, and shall, in the judgment of the said town council, or the major part of them, be persons

who were, or ought to be, admitted to the privilege, aforesaid, of signing the said test, not being inimical, as aforesaid, be permitted to subscribe the same, at any time on or before the 10th day of October next, and shall thereby be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of free and liege subjects of this state; and the secretary is ordered to transmit a copy of this resolve to the town clerk of North Kingstown.

On application to this Assembly, by His Honor the Deputy Governor, representing, that sometime in the month of May last, Capt. James Munro, in the private ship of war, the Blaze Castle, was taken by one of the King of Great Britain's ships of war.

That he, with about fifty of his officers and men, have been detained ever since, in Halifax jail; and that on application by a number of the friends of the prisoners to the Honorable Major General Sullivan, he has granted them liberty to take a sufficient number of prisoners from on board the prison-ship at Providence, to redeem Capt. Munro and his people,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Excellency the Governor, or His Honor the Deputy Governor, be empowered and requested to grant the necessary papers, in conjunction with the Honorable Major General Sullivan, for commissionating some proper person in a suitable vessel, to proceed to Halifax, with the prisoners, as aforesaid, to redeem Capt. Munro, and his people, with such others as shall be released from Halifax jail; and that this state will be at the expense of one-half of the provisions, and the whole of the wages of the captain and seamen, for carrying this resolve into execution.

Whereas, there are many of the non-commissioned officers and men, in the state's service, to whom clothing is due, that are already sufficiently furnished therewith, and are desirous of receiving the money in lieu thereof,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the agent-clothier in this state, be empowered to pay any or all the officers or

privates that choose to receive the cash in lieu of their clothes, at the same rate that he paid them off the last year.

Provided, that the colonels, or commanding officers of the regiments, shall judge that the said persons have clothes sufficient to do duty in, during the time they have enlisted for.

Whereas, a large quantity of stockings are wanted for the use of the troops in the service of this and the other United States,—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier in this state, be empowered to receive what sheep's wool he may want, belonging to this state, now in the hands of Enoch Haszard and Rowse J. Helme, Esqs.; and that he get the same manufactured or exchanged for good yarn stockings, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war convene for the despatch of public business, once in each month; and that they continue in being for four days, and not longer, unless upon the most urgent occasions.

Whereas, Richard Fry, Esq., sheriff of the county of Kent, laid before this Assembly the following report, viz.:

Report of the Sheriff of Kent county, relative to certain Confiscated Property.

Kent, ss. July, 1778.

In obedience to an act of the Honorable the General Assembly, I have taken into possession all the estate of Francis Corey, that hath come to my knowledge, viz.:

One bed and furniture, one table-cloth, four towels, four gowns, one cloak and bonnet, one round chair, one small table, one pair shovel and tongs, one pair hand-irons, one regimental coat, one gun and equipage.

RICHARD FRY, Sheriff.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; and the said Richard Fry is directed to dispose of the above enumerated articles at public vendue; and that he pay the money arising from the sale thereof, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the expenses which have accrued or may accrue, for warning in the militia, alarm and independent companies, within this state, and examining their equipments, be paid by the towns to which such militia, alarm and independent companies belong.

Whereas, John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier in this state, hath represented unto this Assembly, that a large quantity of yarn stockings will be wanted for the use of the army the ensuing winter,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that three thousand pair of men's good yarn stockings be furnished by the several towns in this state, for the use of the soldiers, agreeably to the following proportion, viz.:

Proportion of Yarn Stockings to be furnished by the several Towns, for the use of the Soldiers.

	Pair.		Pair.
Providence -	408	Bristol, - -	84
Warwick - -	180	Tiverton, - -	132
Westerly -	108	Little Compton,	120
North Kingstown, -	168	Warren, - -	36
South Kingstown,	324	Cumberland, -	84
East Greenwich, -	96	Richmond, - -	72
Smithfield, -	192	Cranston, -	132
Scituate, - -	144	Hopkinton, - -	96
Glocester, -	120	Johnston, -	60
Charlestown, -	84	North Providence,	60
West Greenwich,	42	Barrington, -	48
Coventry, - -	84		
Exeter, -	96		3,000

And it is further voted and resolved, that the several collectors of taxes within the several towns be, and they are hereby, authorized, empowered and directed to procure the aforesaid stockings, by the best ways and means they can devise, either by purchasing or distraining the same.

That the said collectors be empowered to receive the said stockings, on account of the taxes, which they are, or may be, empowered to collect.

That they do not give a greater or higher price than $4 for the best of yarn stockings, and other in proportion.

That the whole of said stockings be collected by the 1st day of December next; and that as fast as they are collected, they be delivered to John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier in this state.

That the collectors be allowed five per cent. commissions for procuring the same.

That the accounts for collecting the same, be laid before the council of war, or this Assembly, for adjustment; and that the money for the stockings, aforesaid, be paid out of the general treasury.

And it is further voted and resolved, that if any of the towns, aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to assess their quota and proportion of said stockings, as is before proportioned, within the time aforesaid, and deliver them as aforesaid, they shall forfeit and pay into the general treasury of this state, $8, for each and every pair of stockings for which they are delinquent, to be recovered by the general treasurer to and for the use of this state, by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record proper to try the same.

And it is further voted and resolved, that copies hereof, be immediately sent to the several town clerks within the towns aforesaid, to be delivered to the said collectors.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their session holden in May last, did empower and direct Beriah Brown, Esq., high sheriff of the county of Kings, to collect the moneys due from the persons who were purchasers of the effects of the ships Syren and Sisters, and schooner Two Mates; and

whereas, Col. Ray Sands is possessed of a certain agreement or obligation, made by Messrs. Broome and Babcock, upon their purchase of a considerable quantity of the effects belonging to the said vessels; and whereas, the said Messrs. Broome and Babcock are willing to pay the same unto Peter Phillips, Esq., one of the agents for the captors, provided they could do the same without being guilty of a breach of the aforesaid act, empowering the said Beriah Brown to collect the moneys aforesaid; wherefore,—

Resolved, that the said Peter Phillips, Esq., and Col. Ray Sands, or either of them, be, and they are hereby empowered to receive the moneys aforesaid, from the said Messrs. Broome and Babcock, to and for the use of the captors, and to give a discharge therefor.

Provided nevertheless, if the said Broome and Babcock shall refuse or neglect to pay the same unto the said Peter Phillips or Ray Sands, or either of them, that this resolve shall not be construed to be a bar, let or hindrance, from the said sheriff's collecting the money from them in the way pointed out, in and by the act aforesaid.

An Act obliging persons delinquent in military duty, in the late expedition against the enemy upon Rhode Island, to pay a fine, or perform a tour of duty in lieu thereof; and for punishing persons who left the service in said expedition, without a proper discharge.

Whereas, sundry persons in the several towns of this state, who were drafted, and required, pursuant to the resolutions of the council of war, of the 29th July, and 17th of August last, to perform military duty in the late expedition against the enemy upon Rhode Island, were so destitute of public spirit, and regardless of the laws, honor and welfare of their country, as to neglect or refuse to serve in said expedition, in their own proper persons or by hiring others in their places, at a time when there was a falr prospect, in conjunction with the fleet of His Most Christian Majesty, of expelling the enemy from this state; and some persons, af-

ter having joined the corps to which they respectively belonged in said expedition, were guilty of leaving the service, without a proper discharge; and whereas, for supporting just and equal government, it is necessary that every individual, liable to perform military duty, when required thereto, should be impartially obliged to perform his equal proportion thereof,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the colonels or commanding officers of the several regiments of militia, alarm and independent companies in this state, who were required to serve in said expedition, be, and they are hereby, directed and commanded to make a true and exact list or return, and transmit the same to the council of war; and also to the Honorable Major General Sullivan, or the commander-in-chief of the American troops within this state, on or before the 1st day of October next, of the names and places of abode of all persons in their respective regiments, who were delinquent in performing military duty in said expedition, and were not legally excused, or discharged therefrom; and also of all such as left the service without a proper discharge.

That thereupon, all such delinquent persons, and those who left the service as aforesaid, so returned, shall be liable to serve a tour of military duty, without any allowance of bounty or wages from this state, for two months, in one of the state's battalions, in lieu of the time they ought to have served in said expedition, unless such delinquent person shall pay as a fine to and for the use of this state, into the hands of the colonel or commanding officers of their respective regiments, or independent companies to which they respectively belong, on or before the 25th day of September inst., the sum of £45, lawful money; which fines, the said colonel or commanding officers are hereby required to pay into the general treasury, and make return as aforesaid, of those who shall pay the fine.

Provided nevertheless, that any such delinquent persons

may have the liberty of hiring other suitable persons to serve in their room, during the said term of two months.

And it is further voted and resolved, that it be, and it is hereby, earnestly recommended to the Honorable Major General Sullivan, or commander-in-chief, as aforesaid, to take effectual measures for bringing into the field, and holding in service, any such delinquent persons for the term of two months, to commence from the time they shall arrive at the place of rendezvous, who shall not pay said fine, as aforesaid, or procure a suitable person to serve in their stead, during the said term; and that each colonel and commanding officer, as aforesaid, be furnished as soon as may be, with a copy hereof.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., as agent-clothier, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw £10,000, lawful money, in Continental money, or loan-office certificates, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that each of the justices of the superior court be paid, until further orders from this Assembly, out of the general treasury, for their services and expenses, in attending the courts in the several counties, the sum of thirty-six shillings, lawful money, per day, for every day such justices shall be employed in attending the said courts, in addition to the fees allowed by law; and that the said justices be empowered to draw that sum out of the general treasury, upon producing a certificate from the clerks of the several courts, of the number of days of their attendance, as aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to exchange the Continental loan office certificates in his office for Continental money.

Whereas, it hath happened, that when the town councils of several towns in this state, have hired persons to do military duty, in the room of persons who have been draughted, pursuant to acts of this Assembly, heretofore made, that

such persons, in whose room others have been hired, as aforesaid, have frequently concealed their personal estates, so that warrants of distress, issued as the law directs, cannot be levied; and as such persons are frequently possessed of real estates,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that said town councils be, and they are hereby, empowered to take possession of the real estates of such persons, against whom warrants are, or shall be issued, and lease the same, or cut off as much wood from the same and dispose thereof, as will be sufficient to satisfy the money expended by the town councils in hiring persons to do duty in their room, unless the persons who have been draughted, and neglected to do duty, shall upon notice thereof, otherwise discharge the same; and that the presidents of the several town councils be furnished as soon as may be, with copies hereof.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session held at Providence, in May last, passed an act empowering Beriah Brown, of North Kingstown, in the county of Kings, Esq., to collect the moneys due from the several persons who purchased any of the effects belonging to the prize-ship Syren, ship Sisters, and schooner Two Mates, lately captured near Point Judith, in this state; and whereas, there are several persons who have had knowledge of sundry private sales being made of some of the effects belonging to said prize-ships, &c., and have got minutes and accounts thereof, who refuse to deliver the same to the said Beriah Brown, to enable him to collect and settle the same with such purchasers,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the said Beriah Brown be, and he is hereby, further empowered to ask, demand and receive of and from every person or persons, all such minutes and accounts of sales that he or they have had, or have been entrusted with, or have any knowledge of; and also to ask for, demand and receive of and from any person or persons, all obligations, securities and agreements,

entered into, made, given, or passed between the purchasers of any of said effects, belonging to said prizes, and any of the captors thereof (excepting the contract of Messrs. Broome and Babcock, in the hands of Col. Sands), and cause all such persons that have any such obligations, securities or agreements, or that have any minutes or accounts of any sales made of the effects belonging to the said prizes, to any person or persons whomsoever, to render unto him a true and just account thereof; and of what knowledge he or they have respecting the same, under oath, to be administered unto him or them for that purpose by the said Beriah Brown, or any one justice of the peace in the county where such persons who have any such obligations, securities, agreements, or accounts of sales, resides or belongs.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person whosover, shall refuse or neglect to deliver up all such obligations, securities, agreements, minutes and accounts of sales under oath, unto the said Beriah Brown, after he shall demand the same, or shall refuse to declare under oath their knowledge respecting the same, that in that case it shall be lawful for the said Beriah Brown, and he is hereby commanded to pray out a warrant, under the hand and seal of any one of the justices of the superior or inferior courts, or any of the justices of the peace in the counties where he or they reside or belong, and cause them to be committed to such county jail, and there to remain, on their own cost and expense, until they shall deliver up to the said Beriah Brown all such obligations, securities, agreements, minutes and accounts of sales, under oath, as aforesaid; and shall declare under oath their knowledge respecting the same, as aforesaid.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Beriah Waite, for his time and expenses in carrying divers acts of the General Assembly and council of war to the several towns in the county of Kings	16	10	00
James Arnold, for his horse-hire and expenses in attending on the council of war	48	00	00
Immanuel Case, for his horse-hire and expenses in attending on the council of war	44	04	00
Gideon Comstock, for his horse-hire and expenses in attending on the council of war	52	16	00
George Peirce, for his horse-hire and expenses in attending on the council of war	13	04	00
Esek Hopkins, for his expenses in attending as a member of the council of war	26	02	00
William Channing, for his expenses in attending on the General Assembly, as clerk	13	14	00
Governor William Greene, for his horse-hire and expenses, in attending as one of the members of the council of war	54	00	00
Abraham Greene, for his time and expenses in going express to Col. Kasson, and the town council of Coventry, with the order of the council of war for warning the militia; for attending on the General Assembly at the present session, &c.	5	08	00
Arnold Stafford, for attending as a waiter on the General Assembly at this present session	3	00	00
Richard Fry, for his past services as sheriff of the county of Kent, $20.			
Deputy Governor Jabez Bowen, for his expenses in attending as a member of the council of war	15	15	00

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on Monday, the 26th day of October, 1778.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Fisherman, a negro man-slave, the property of William Allen, was enlisted by Capt. Elijah Lewis, into the regiment under the command of Col. Greene, agreeably to a resolution of this Assembly; and the said Fisherman, be-

fore he was mustered and valued, deserted to the enemy on Rhode Island, whereby the said William hath been prevented from obtaining a certificate of the value of the said slave, and a note for the payment thereof; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said William Allen be allowed £120, lawful money, for the said negro man-slave.

That the general treasurer give his promissory note for the payment of the same, agreeably to the said resolution; and that the said negro man, if he should again come into possession of this state, be at the disposal of this Assembly.

Whereas, Messrs. John Updike and Paul Allen laid before this Assembly the following report, viz.:

Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to burn certain Lawful Money Bills.

We, the subscribers, together with the Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq., being appointed by the Honorable the General Assembly, a committee to receive of Joseph Clarke, Esq., general treasurer, the lawful money bills emitted bythis state, and burn the same, do report:

That we have received, carefully counted and burnt of the several emissions, the following sums, viz..

January 15, 1776		£24,459 07 3	
November 6, 1775		9,683 19 5	
March 18, 1776		12,542 09 9	
September 5, 1776		13,825 17 0	
		£60,511 13 5	
May 3, 1775	£6,196 06 4½		
Interest thereon	122 12 7		
		6,318 18 11½	
June 16, 1775	3,312 00 6		
Interest thereon	55 08 7		
		3,367 09 01	
June 29, 1775	2,949 00 1		
Interest thereon	46 13 10½		
		2,995 13 11½	
			£73,193 15 05

JOHN UPDIKE,
PAUL ALLEN.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that in future no charges be allowed in the accounts of the general treasurer against this state, except the same are supported by orders of this Assembly, or the council of war; and the committees who may be hereafter appointed to adjust the same, are to proceed accordingly; and that the treasurer be furnished, by the secretary, with a copy of this resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings, forthwith take into his possession the real estate late of George Wightman, deceased, but now belonging to Geo. Wightman, who is in the service of the enemies of the United States; and all other estate belonging to the said George Wightman; and that he make report to this Assembly.

Whereas, a deficiency hath arisen in the stock belonging to the farm formerly improved by Stephen Boyer, but now leased to Mr. Charles Dyer,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Stephen Boyer and Charles Dyer be notified, by the sheriff for the county of Kings, to give their attendance at the next session of this Assembly, that the same may be adjusted.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Enoch Haszard, for the county of Kings; William Bradford, Esq., for the counties of Bristol and Providence; and Pardon Gray, Esq., for the county of Newport, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to receive and dispose of the rents due, in produce, for the estates leased in behalf of this state, within their respective counties, in the year 1778, to the best advantage, at public or private sale; and that the said Enoch Haszard and Pardon Gray render an account and pay the money arising from the sale of the rents within their respective counties, to the said William Bradford, Esq.

Whereas, great inconveniences and difficulties do arise within this state, by reason that the acts, votes and resolves of the General Assembly, are not printed immediately after the rising of the session of such Assembly where they are

passed, and the schedules duly transmitted to each town, as the law directs; wherefore—

Resolved, that it be, and hereby is, earnestly recommended to Henry Ward, Esq., secretary of this state, to employ a sufficient number of clerks to forthwith copy and prepare for the press all the acts, orders and resolutions of this Assembly, which are not already printed or prepared for the press; and that he employ as many printers (if Mr. Carter cannot do the business) as will be necessary; so that all the schedules may, if possible, be ready to be delivered by the next session of this Assembly, or as soon as may be.

Whereas, of late, the streets and highways of the several towns in this state have suffered greatly, for want of due repairs; and the fines for neglect of doing duty on the highways, as the law requires, are so small that they are in nowise adequate to the expense of mending and repairing them; wherefore—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that from and after the rising of this Assembly, the fines for not appearing and doing duty on the highways, as the law requires, be as follows, viz.:

For each man per day, twenty-four shillings.

For a man and one yoke of oxen, and cart or plough per day, forty-two shillings.

For a man and two yoke of oxen, and a good draught-horse, with cart or plough, fifty-six shillings per day.

And for teams only, the fines to be in the same proportion.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person shall be appointed a surveyor, and shall not accept the appointment, and undertake the duties of his office; or if he shall accept the same, and afterwards neglect the duty of his office, he shall pay as a fine £15, lawful money, to be collected and paid in manner as is directed by an act entitled "An act for amending the highways."

And it is ordered, that a copy of this act be inserted in the Providence Gazette three weeks successively, that all persons concerned, may have notice thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that Jonathan Arnold, William Bradford and Henry Ward, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to revise the several acts heretofore passed respecting persons inimical to the liberties of the United States, and to draw up such further acts as they shall think necessary to prevent the return of persons to this state, as inhabitants thereof, who have voluntarily left the same, or the towns to which they belonged, to join the enemy on Rhode Island, or elsewhere; and also an act of outlawry for all others who have, in arms or otherwise, aided, abetted, or assisted the enemy, and for confiscation of their estates; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Jonathan Arnold, Esq., and Mr. John Brown, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draft a letter to the Honorable the General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, respecting the embargo upon provisions; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

Whereas, Mr. Robert Champlin, of South Kingstown, in the county of Kings, mariner, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that in the month of November, 1774, he sailed from Newport, to the coast of Africa, where he purchased a number of slaves, and disposed of them in the island of Jamaica, part upon credit, and the other part for the produce of the island, with which he again sailed for the coast of Africa, and returned to the island aforesaid; when hearing of the cruel war carried on by the British troops against his native country, he left the greater part of his effects in the hands of the merchants and planters, took passage to Newport, and from thence returned to South Kingstown, aforesaid.

That he hath been at home almost two years, and nearly expended all the effects he brought with him; and that he is

desirous of taking passage to some neutral island in the West Indies, and from thence to Jamaica, in order to collect his effects there; but would not willingly go to any place or port in possession of the enemy, without proper leave first had; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him a permit to pass to the said island of Jamaica, in manner as aforesaid, in order to collect his debts and effects there; and that he may be permitted, if he collects his debts or effects, to bring the same into this state, without interruption; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the said Robert Champlin be permitted to go to the said island of Jamaica, for the purposes therein mentioned.

Whereas, Messrs. Joseph Clarke, Ichabod Babcock, Jr., Samuel Champlin, Samuel Thompson, George Stillman, Nathan Babcock, John Ross and Thomas Wickham, preferred a petition and represented unto this Assembly, that their boats were taken into the service of the United States, in October, 1777, by order of General Cornell, for the intended expedition against the enemy, on Rhode Island.

That they have been deprived of the use of them since that time.

That their families depended chiefly on the advantages accruing from their use in fishing; and that their seines have lain still since that time, which might have been employed in the support of their families; and thereupon they prayed this Assembly that a committee might be appointed, to appraise them; and that they might be recommended for payment of the boats and damages to Gen. Sullivan, through the mediation of this Assembly; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the consideration of the foregoing petition, and of the accounts therewith presented, be recommended to the Honorable Major General Sullivan, agreeably to the prayer thereof; and upon the recommendation of General Sullivan,—

It is further voted and resolved, that Brig. Gen. Cornell, Col. Pardon Gray and Major Thomas Sheffield, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to ascertain the damages sustained by the petitioners, and the persons who have exhibited the said accounts, in the loss of the boats, and the articles contained therein.

Whereas, Dr. Thomas Eyres preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that his mulatto slave, aged about twenty-three years, enlisted into the Continental battalion raised by this state, under the command of Colonel Greene, by the name of Frank Gould, alias Eyres, about eighteen months since, to serve during the war.

That during the time the act of this state was in force, giving slaves so enlisting, their freedom, and allowing their masters in proportion to their worth, the regiment was on duty to the westward; so that it was not in his power, for want of the necessary certificates, to apply for payment for the said Frank.

That the said Frank being esteemed by his officers an excellent soldier, the petitioner does not object to his remaining in the service, on the terms of the act; but humbly prays this Assembly that he may be allowed a reasonable sum for the servant, and that the said Frank may be entitled to the benefit of the said act; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the aforegoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the committee heretofore appointed to estimate the value of negro, Indian or mulatto slaves, who enlisted into the regiment under the command of Col. Greene, estimate the value of the aforesaid mulatto slave, and give the said Thomas Eyres a certificate thereof; and that thereupon the treasurer pay the same out of the treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Walter Burdick, of Charlestown, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that on the 25th day of May last, when the enemy landed at Warren,

he, with six others, attacked and had several fair fires at them.

That they continued firing upon them until they retreated.

That in pursuing them, he was wounded very dangerously in the body; of which wounds, he lay languishing at Col. Miller's house, until the 12th of June, when he was carrid to Narragansett Ferry; and from thence to Jonathan Macomber's, where he lay in extreme pain the greatest part of the time, until the last of August; and that he hath not been able to do a day's work since; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to order the cost and expense he has been at, during his lameness, to be paid him; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the council of war adjust the accounts of expenses, and order the same to be paid out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the draft of £50, lawful money, out of the general treasury, made by the Honorable Jabez Bowen, Esq., in pursuance of a recommendation from the president of the Continental board of war, to defray the expenses of certain French gentlemen, in the service of the Continent, be, and it is hereby, approved of.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and is hereby, earnestly recommended to Major General Sullivan, to obtain an exchange of Messrs. William Borden and Sion Martindale, Captain Joseph Gardner and Lieutenant Nicholas Underwood, who are now prisoners with the enemy at Rhode Island.

It is further voted and resolved, that it be further recommended to Major General Sullivan to permit the families of the officers and men who were taken in the galley Washington, to draw the wages due to them.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer immediately discharge the notes by him given to the owners of

slaves who have enlisted into the regiment, under the command of Col. Christopher Greene.

That he also pay unto the owners of slaves who have enlisted, as aforesaid, and who have not received notes for the estimated value of the same, the sums of money at which they were appraised, upon their producing certificates thereof, from the committee appointed to give the same; and that the said owners be permitted to receive the whole or any part of the value of their slaves, in Continental loan-office certificates.

It is voted and resolved, that Lieut. Enoch Stanton be supplied by the committee for supplying the families of officers and soldiers in the town of Westerly; or by the commissary appointed by this Assembly at the present session, agreeably to the acts of this Assembly now in force for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that the post employed to ride from Connecticut to New Hampshire, by the committees from the New England States, who met at Providence in December, 1776, be, and the same is hereby, discontinued.

It is voted and resolved, that Thos. Greene, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed commissary, to purchase such articles as are to be supplied in camp, to the Continental officers and soldiers raised by this state, agreeably to a resolution of this Assembly, passed at the present session; and that he appoint an issuing-commissary, or commissaries, to issue the same, agreeably to the said resolution, and make them such allowances as may be reasonable for their services, to be paid by this state.

That the said issuing-commissaries be accountable for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in them, to the said Thomas Greene; and that the said Thomas Greene be accountable therefor, to this state.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said Thomas Greene be allowed for his services aforesaid, at and after the rate of £30, lawful money, per month.

And it is also voted and resolved, that he be empowered

to draw the sum of £3,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for the purpose, aforesaid, on his giving bond to the general treasurer, for the faithful discharge of the aforesaid trust; and that he also be empowered to receive of His Excellency Governor Greene, such quantities of sugar in his possession, belonging to the state, as may be wanted in the aforesaid business, giving his receipt for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that all the field, commissioned and staff officers, in the Continental battalions raised by this state, be supplied, agreeably to an act passed in August, A. D. 1777, with molasses, rum, sugar and coffee, at the rates affixed in the act against monopoly and oppression or (if to be procured), with the charges of transportation, to the amount of one-sixteenth part of their wages in camp, by the commissary appointed by this Assembly for that purpose, they paying the money therefor, on the receipt of the articles; and that the remaining three-sixteenths of the wages of those who have families, be paid agreeably to the regulations heretofore made, for supplying the families of persons in service.

It is further voted and resolved, that those field, commissioned and staff officers, who have no families, for their more comfortable subsistence, be paid monthly, in lieu of the remainder of the said one-quarter part of their wages in cash, in the following proportions, viz.:

Pay of Officers per Month.

A colonel shall receive,	$56 00
A lieutenant colonel,	45 00
A major,	33 50
Each captain,	30 00
Each lieutenant,	20 00
Each ensign,	15 00
Each surgeon,	45 00
Each surgeon's mate,	30 00

which shall be paid them per month, for subsistence money, by the paymaster to be appointed for that purpose; and that the other staff officers be allowed for subsistence money in proportion to their wages.

It is further voted and resolved, that all the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, belonging to the said Continental battalions, shall be supplied while in camp with the like articles, to the amount of one-quarter part of their wages, they paying the cash for the same, on receipt of the articles.

It is further voted and resolved, that the remaining three-quarter parts of the wages of the said non-commissioned officers and soldiers (excepting such soldiers as enlisted into the regiment uuder the command of Colonel Christopher Greene, in pursuance of an act permitting Indian, mulatto and negro slaves, to enlist into the same,) who have families, shall be by the said commissary paid to the town's committee appointed to supply their families.

Provided always, that such non-commisioned officers and soldiers, who shall be recommended by some one of the field officers of the regiment to which they belong for that purpose, shall, if he choose, receive monthly, the sums following, viz.:

Each sergeant, $30; each corporal, drummer and fifer, $22; and each private, $20, in cash, for subsistence money for themselves and families, over and above the wages he or they may receive of the regimental paymaster, to be paid them by the committees of the towns to which they respectively belong.

And it is further voted and resolved, that those non-commissioned officers and soldiers who have no families, excepting the soldiers who have enlisted in pursuance of the said act, permitting Indian, negro and mulatto slaves to enlist, shall receive, for their better subsistence, the following sums per month, in money, viz.:

Each sergeant, $30; each corporal, drummer and fifer,

$22; and each private soldier, $20; which shall be paid them by the commissary, aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Gardner and Peter Phillips, of North Kingstown, be permitted to subscribe the test act.

Whereas, Samuel Knowles, George Sweet, Jr., Ezekiel Tripp and Ichabod Mosier, have concealed themselves, and kept out of the way, so that they could not be apprehended by the sheriff of the county of Kings, by virtue of a precept issued forth by the chief justice of the superior court, all of whom were accused of having uttered and passed counterfeit money; and whereas, the said sheriff hath seized and taken into possession all the estates, both real and personal, of the aforesaid persons, and the same hath been adjudged forfeit by the superior court of judicature, &c., held at South Kingstown, in the county of Kings, in October, A. D. 1777,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Beriah Brown, Esq., sheriff of Kings county, sell all the real and personal estates of the said Samuel Knowles, George Sweet, Jr., Ezekiel Tripp and Ichabod Mosier, that have been adjudged forfeit, at public vendue, to the highest bidder, as the law directs.

That he pay the amount thereof (after deducting charges), into the general treasury; and that the treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to give deeds of the same; which deeds shall vest in the purchaser or purchasers, the fee of the said estates.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. William Richmond, John Jenckes, Benjamin Bourn, John Northup and Othniel Gorton, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draft a bill for taking a new estimate; and that they make report as soon as may be.

Whereas, William Aldrich, of Smithfield, in this state, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that Jemima Wilkinson, of Cumberland, single woman, who is a

preacher, and under a strong apprehension in her mind, that she is divinely called to go and preach to the people in England; and has for that purpose, obtained General Sullivan's permission to go upon Rhode Island, to take passage from thence to England; and has also obtained his permission to take with her Marcy Wilkinson and Rhoda Scott, as companions.

That they are all unwilling to go, unless some man of their acquaintance can be permitted to go with them.

That he is very desirous to accompany them, and has applied to General Sullivan for that purpose, who refuses to permit him, without the consent of the Assembly be first obtained; and thereupon the said William earnestly desired this Assembly to grant him permission to go upon Rhode Island, in order to go from thence to England with the said Jemima and her companions; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said Wm. Aldrich, in his aforesaid petition contained, be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the said William Aldrich be permitted to go under the direction of General Sullivan, and subject to such restrictions as he shall prescribe.

Whereas, Messrs. James Lovett, John Dexter, Simon Whipple, John Brayton, David Dexter, Jr., Benjamin Whipple and Jotham Carpenter, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the bridge built over Pawtucket River, between the towns of Smithfield and Cumberland, near Unity Furnace (so called), is so impaired, that it is almost impassable, and the public greatly incommoded by means thereof.

That the said bridge was at first built by way of a lottery, and hath ever since been repaired in like manner; and thereupon, they prayed this Assembly to grant a lottery, to raise the sum of £300, lawful money, to repair the same; and that Major John Fisk, Jotham Carpenter, Esq., Col. Edward Thompson and Mr. William Gulley, may be appointed directors or managers of the said lottery, and prepare a

scheme accordingly; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

That the managers give bond to the general treasurer of this state for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in them; and that no cost accrue to the state from the said lottery.

Whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, that the colonels of the respective regiments in this state, have returned unto the Honorable Major General Sullivan many persons, as delinquents in the late expedition against Rhode Island, who were sick or incapable of doing personal service in camp, or were absent from this state before the militia were at first called out; and as it is not the intent and meaning of this Legislature, that persons who were incapable of doing personal service, or who were absent from this state before the first draught of the inhabitants, and had not any knowledge of the said expedition, should be returned as delinquents; wherefore—

Resolved, that the several field officers of their respective regiments, do make return to General Sullivan, within thirty days after the rising of this Assembly, of the names of all persons whom they have returned as delinquents, who at the time of the draught, and during the time of their tour of duty, were sick, or otherwise incapable of doing personal service in camp, or before the first draught of the inhabitants, were absent from this state, and had not any knowledge of the intended expedition, that they may be excused from the penalties of the late act made for the punishing of said delinquents; the said officers taking great care and precaution that no one be excused, but those who are really deserving thereof; and that a copy of this resolve be immediately sent to each field officer of the regiments, and commanders of the independent companies.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Brown, John Jenckes and Benjamin Bourn, be, and they are hereby, ap-

pointed a committee, to inquire into the conditions upon which the stock belonging to the farm late belonging to William Vassal, were received by Messrs. Cromel Child and Thomas Greene; and that they make report to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war, upon application made to them by Major General Sullivan, appoint and commissionate the sergeants of his guards, agreeably to his letter to this Assembly.

Whereas, the committee who were appointed to draft a letter to the General Assembly of Connecticut, respecting the embargo on provisions, laid before this Assembly a draft of the said letter; and the same having been duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said draft be, and the same is hereby, approved of; and that a fair copy thereof, signed by His Excellency the Governor, be transmitted to the said General Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the draft of a letter to General Sullivan, presented unto this Assembly by the committee who were appointed to draft the same, be approved of; and that a fair copy thereof, signed by His Excellency the Governor, be transmitted to the Hon. Major General Sullivan.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £30,000, lawful money, be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, to be collected and paid into the general treasury, on or before the 1st day of January next.

That Messrs. Zebedee Grinnell, Esek Hopkins, Rowse J. Helme, Adam Comstock and William Bradford, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to apportion the same to the several towns within this state, not in the possession of the enemy; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war consist of ten members; whereof—

One, shall be for the county of Newport.

Three, for the county of Providence.

Three, for the county of Kings.

Two, for the county of Kent; and

One, for the county of Bristol; five, of whom, shall be a quorum.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said council convene on the last Monday in November next, and at such other times as His Excellency the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor, shall think it necessary, for the good purposes for which the said council was instituted; and that unless there be a member from three counties, the said council shall not be deemed clothed with sufficient powers to make any resolve whatever.

It is further voted and resolved, that there be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to each of the members who live in the county of Providence, $4; and $6, to each of the members who live out of the county of Providence (including their expenses), for each and every day they shall attend the said council, convened agreeably to this resolve; and that such of the said members as reside twenty miles from the town of Providence, be allowed one day extra, for their times in convening and returning home.

It is further voted and resolved, that if either of the members shall neglect to attend the said council, at the time ordered to be convened by this resolve, or at any other time, when convened by His Excellency the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor; if a member for the county of Providence, he shall pay as a fine, $4; and if he lives out of the county of Providence, he shall pay as a fine, $6, for each day's non-attendance on the said council.

That the fines be paid into the general treasury, for the advantage of the state; and that the said council shall have power to remit the fines of those who may have sufficient excuses for their absence.

It is voted and resolved, that the act exempting the

inhabitants of the towns now in possession of the enemy, from taxation, for their polls and personal estate, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that those persons who have not subscribed the declaration or test, prescribed by an act of this state, passed at June session, A. D. 1776, within the time limited by a resolve of this Assembly, at their first session in May, 1778, shall be, and they are hereby, permitted to prosecute and defend actions, petitions, bills, and legal processes of what kind or nature soever, before the General Assembly, or any court within this state; the resolve of this Assembly, at their session in July, 1776, or any other resolve or act of this state, notwithstanding.

And that such parts of the acts and orders of this state, as incapacitate persons, not having subscribed the said declaration or test, from prosecuting and defending actions, &c., as aforesaid, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Both houses joined in a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, viz.:

Sundry Officers Chosen.

Gideon Comstock, Esq., fifth justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, within and throughout the state.

The following gentlemen to constitute a council of war:

His Excellency William Greene, Esq., the Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq., Pardon Gray, Esek Hopkins, John Jenckes, John Northup, Joshua Babcock, Jonathan J. Haszard, Job Comstock, Josiah Humphrey, Esqs.

Officers of the Militia.

Jeremiah Knowles, lieutenant of the Second Company of Militia, in the town of South Kingstown.

Elisha Potter (son of Benjamin), ensign, of the said company.

John Willcox, lieutenant, in Capt. Springer's company, in Col. Topham's battalion.

Richard Durfey, captain, of the Third Company of Militia, in the town of Tiverton, in the room of B. Durfey, who declines.

Humphrey Shearman, lieutenant, and Thomas Durfey, ensign, of the said company.

Whereas, many inhabitants of the island of Rhode Island, after having suffered every evil and insult, from the wanton cruelty of our enemies; and from affluent and comfortable circumstances, are reduced to the most distressing necessity for the common supports of life; and are now by them (in order if possible to render their distresses more aggravated), thrust out from their late comfortable and peaceable dwellings at this approaching inclement season, destitute of the means of support and subsistence, and permitted to come off to the main, to seek asylum and succor among their brethren; whereby, we are called upon, by every motive of compassion, to extend that humanity towards them we would wish to find under similar unhappy circumstances; in order therefore, to provide for their relief,—

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Peleg Clarke, Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, Mr. Pettis and Mr. Hezekiah Dayton, of Providence; Capt. Benjamin Almy, of Taunton; William Channing, Esq., of Dighton; Christopher Ellery, Esq., of Mendon; Mr. Lemuel Wyatt, of Rehoboth; Mr. Thomas Rumreil and Mr. Robert Stevens, Jr., of East Greenwich; Mr. Constant Taber, of Tiverton; Mr. George Champlin, of South Kingstown; Mr. Daniel Rogers, of Westerly; Mr. Benjamin Cozzens, of Charlestown; Mr. Peter Cozzens, of North Kingstown; Messrs. Oliver Ring Warner and Jonathan Otis, of Middletown, in the state of Connecticut; and Mr. Samuel Brown, of Boston, be a committee, to take a regular list of all persons and their families, who have already come off, and shall hereafter come off, from Rhode Island; and particularly, of such as need assistance for support, and make returns to the General Assembly or council of war,

from time to time, of their names, and in what towns they are received.

That the said committee solicit donations from the charitable inhabitants of our sister states, and other well disposed persons, and distribute what they can by that means collect, as well as what may be granted by this General Assembly, from time to time, as equitably as they can, to the several town councils of the towns where our suffering brethren may reside, to be delivered out to them under their direction, and according to their necessities.

And it is hereby most earnestly recommended to the town councils of the several towns within this state, as soon as may be, after the rising of this Assembly, to transmit to Capt. Peleg Clarke, late of Newport, now residing at Providence, an account of what numbers of the inhabitants aforesaid, there are now residing in their respective towns, and what numbers more they can comfortably accommodate with dwelling-places, during the coming winter; on receipt of which, from any town, the said committee shall assist in removing so many as they think proper to such town, as soon as possible.

And for their more immediate relief,—

It is further voted and resolved, that the said Peleg Clarke, in behalf of the said committee, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw out of the general treasury the sum of £1,000, lawful money, to be appropriated as aforesaid.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said committee cause fair accounts to be kept of all moneys, and other things, received by donations, and drawn from the treasury of this state, and of the expenditures of the same, and account for their conduct and doings to the General Assembly, when called upon for that purpose; the said committee having generously undertaken to transact the aforesaid business gratis.

And it is ordered, that a copy hereof, be published in the next Providence Gazette, and transmitted to each of the members of the committee appointed to solicit donations.

It is voted and resolved, that Pardon Gray, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed and empowered to dispose of the flax seed in his care, belonging to the state, for the best price he can get.

That he do not dispose of the same at a less price than twenty-four shillings per bushel, exclusive of the cask.

That he also sell the casks for the best price he can; giving the first refusal of the seed and casks to the deputy quartermaster general, for public service; and that he pay the moneys thence arising, into the general treasury, as soon as may be, after the sale thereof; and report his doings to the General Assembly at the next session.

The General Assembly having the highest sense of the good conduct and gallant behaviour of Maj. Silas Talbut and Lieut. William Helme, and the rest of the brave officers and soldiers who attacked and took the enemy's armed galley, lying in the East Passage,—

Do resolve, that the thanks of this Assembly be given unto them, for the signal service done their country in capturing the said vessel; and that a copy of this resolve be transmitted to the said Maj. Talbut.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
John Northup, one of the committee of safety, for balance of his account..	245	01	04
William Bagley, for sundry supplies, by him delivered out to the families of officers and soldiers in the town of North Providence.	43	15	02
Theodore Foster, for his time and expenses in going to Rhode Island, to confer with General Sullivan, by order of the council of war, respecting the calling forth the militia; and also for his time and expenses in going to, at and from Boston, to make application to the council of that state for assistance.....	16	18	08
Paul Allen, for his services as one of the committee for counting and burning the lawful money bills of this state, received into the general treasury	23	15	00
John Updike, for his services as one of the committee for counting and burning the lawful money bills received into the general treasury.....	21	00	00
Rowse J. Helme, for his expenses in attending as a member of the council of war, &c.....	57	05	00

	£ s. d.
John Northup, for his expenses in attending as a member of the council of war	34 17 00
William Tefft, one of the overseers of the poor of the town of Richmond, for board and nursing of Sarah Jones, a pauper belonging to the town of Newport, and removing her to David Potter's house	19 16 00
David Potter, overseer of the poor of the town of Richmond, for boarding and nursing Sarah Jones, &c.	32 08 00
John Jenckes, Paul Allen, J. Northup and G. Comstock, for their services as committee for settling an account against John Smith, in favor of the state	18 15 00
William Ellery, one of the delegates from the state in Congress, for balance of his account	250 01 04
Jabez Bowen, for his services twelve days, in counting and burning money in the general treasury	18 00 00
Jabez Bowen, for his expenses in going to Hartford, to bring the money granted the state by Congress in June, 1778	49 02 06
Caleb Harris, as director of the state's powder mill, for materials provided, superintending the same, &c.	272 17 02
Caleb Harris, for divers bills by him paid, for repairing the powder mill, by order of the Deputy Governor	110 11 00
John Jenckes, for his services as one of the committee in settling the general treasurer's accounts	10 00 00
Samuel Mumford, for dinners provided by him for twenty-eight soldiers	8 08 00
Stephen Potter, for his expenses in attending as one of the council of war, in the months of June, July, August and September last	40 12 00
Robert Potter, for thirty-three dinners by him provided for soldiers from Massachusetts Bay, doing duty in this state	9 18 00
Thomas Rumreil, for his expenses in attending as one of the council of war	38 12 00
Paul Allen, as one of the committee in settling the accounts of the general treasurer	7 10 00
Pardon Gray, for his expenses in attending six days as a member of the council of war	13 10 00
William Potter, for three cords of walnut wood, by him delivered at the state house, in Kings county	14 08 00
Capt. George Stillman, for billeting a number of soldiers of his company, on their march from Westerly to Boston Neck, in December, 1776	10 19 06
Town of Little Compton, for boarding, and necessaries provided for James Cheesebrough, a soldier sick with the small pox, in said town	56 09 03
Stephen Babcock, John Cole and Peter Wright, for money advanced in discharge of abstracts for services done on the shores, on the 29th and 30th of September, 1777, and not allowed by the auditor of accounts	23 19 04
Town of North Kingstown, for sundry expenses in providing a pest house, &c., for Lieut. Col. Jacobs, and three soldiers, sick with the small pox	26 17 05
Ebenezer Tefft, for his attendance on the General Assembly, &c., at the present session	23 11 00
John Waite, for dinners furnished for five solders, by order of Major Sylvester Gardner	1 10 00

	£	s.	d.
William Channing, for his expenses in attending on the General Assembly at the last session, as clerk	14	06	00
John Waite, authorized to draw out of the general treasury for supplying the families of officers and soldiers in the town of South Kingstown	200	00	00

God save the United States of America.

The Governor of Rhode Island to General Sullivan.

State of Rhode Island, &c.] South Kingstown, Oct. 30th, 1778.

Sir:—His Excellency the Governor having laid your favor of the 26th inst.,* before the General Assembly, at their present session, they immediately took the matters therein contained into serious consideration.

The particular circumstances attending Mr. Read's conduct in getting to the enemy' upon Rhode Island, and his behaviour while there, produced very different sentiments respecting the line of conduct to be observed towards him.

The Assembly considered Mr. Read a dangerous and inimical person, and not safe to be trusted among us; and not being willing, until affairs should be more settled and fixed, to bring any such person to a trial, imagined it would be most prudent to return him to Rhode Island, and therefore requested your concurrence with that measure. But from the reasons mentioned in your letter, the House are sensible that your conduct relative to him, was wise and judicious; and they have now determined further to inquire into his conduct, and order such trial as shall seem to them best; and therefore request that he may be continued where he now is, under the same restrictions as heretofore, until called for by the Assembly.

Upon inquiry, we find that some of the officers of the militia misconstrued the act for returning all delinquents in the late expedition. It was the intention of the Legislature in calling forth the inhabitants, that only the fencible men should take the field; and not those who were sick, lame or otherwise incapable of doing personal service in camp. It was expected that those in a situation incapable of bearing arms, would have been excused from the draft by the field officers of their respective regiments, as hath heretofore been customary within this state.

The Assembly, however, have been informed that some of the officers, particularly of Cols. Noyes and Dyer's regiments, have returned the whole as delinquents who did not serve, whether capable to bear arms or not.

Upon consideration of the matter, the Assembly came to a resolution that the several field officers within their respective departmens should excuse and discharge from the penalties of the aforesaid act such of those persons drafted, as should appear to them were proper to be excused; and they are accordingly to signify the same to Your Honor.

The General Assembly would have taken the highest pleasure and satisfaction in promoting the four sergeants, agreeably to your request; but considering how very tenacious the gentlemen in the army are of their rank and honor, and what difficulties have heretofore arose in our state's brigade by making promotions of junior officers to command their senior officers, have mentioned that obstacle to Your Honor. But

* The letter above referred to, is not found in the archives of the state.

paying great deference to your opinion, we have given directions to the council of war to grant the commissions, if you still think it will promote the good of the service. In behalf of the General Assembly,

I am, sir, with the greatest respect and esteem,

Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

WILLIAM GREENE.

To General Sullivan.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the General Assembly of Connecticut.

In General Assembly,
South Kingstown, October 31st, 1778.

Henorable Gentlemen:—The scarcity of provisions within this state necessary for the support of its inhabitants, occasions our addressing you at this time.

We will briefly state the causes of this scarcity. The unfortunate expedition of 1777, against Rhode Island, prevented the English grain from being sown in the usual quantities, and the severe drought of the past summer, cut short the produce of what was sown, as well as the labors of the present season; and from our men being all on duty for a considerable time the present fall, great losses accrued for want of a timely harvest.

Added to these, we have been obliged for the two years past, to keep as guards on our shores, great numbers of our militia, whereby the state was deprived of their labor in agriculture; and our best lands, to the amount of nearly one-fourth part of our whole state, have been either in the possession of the enemy, or so situated with respect to them, as to render their improvement impracticable; and by the blockade of our ports by the enemy; and the embargos, prohibiting the exportation of provisions from the neighboring states, has prevented supplies both by land and water being brought in necessary quantities into this state. We wish you also to consider that number of the distressed inhabitants have already come, and are daily coming, off from Rhode Island to seek support, and that a large body of troops are posted in the state.

From these facts, it is easy to conceive the distress to which we are liable, unless prevented by timely supplies from your state, and such other of our sister states as can afford them.

And we will not doubt, from a due consideration thereof, that you will immediately remove every obstacle that prevents, on the part of your state, the free importation of provisions by land or water, into ours, for the consumption of its inhabitants; assuring you, it shall be our particular care to prevent any supplies going to the enemy; and that no provisions be exported from this state to foreign parts.

In the name and in behalf of the General Assembly,

I am, with great esteem, honorable gentlemen,

Your very humble servant,

WILLIAM GREENE.

To the General Assembly of Connecticut.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the last Monday in December, 1778.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Olney Winsor and Joseph Comstock be, and they are hereby, permitted to subscribe the test; and that thereupon they shall be entitled to all privileges as though they had signed the same at any time heretofore.

It is voted and resolved, that the farm in Exeter, heretofore leased to Mr. Samuel Carr, be again leased to him for the year 1779; and that John Northup, Esq., Messrs. John Chapman and Thomas Tillinghast, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to determine the rent which shall be allowed for the same; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Major General Sullivan be, and he is hereby, requested to release Mr. John Read from his present confinement; and that he, the said John Read, thereupon enter into recognizance, with two sufficient sureties, before either of the justices of the superior court of judicature within this state; himself in the sum of £5,000, lawful money, and the said sureties each in the sum of £2,500, lawful money, and conditioned for the good behaviour of him, the said John Read, and for his appearance before the superior court of judicature, to be holden in in Providence, March next; and abiding the sentence and judgment of said court respecting him.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Lodowick Updike be, and he is hereby, permitted to subscribe the test, heretofore

ordered to be subscribed by the inhabitants of this state; and that thereupon he be entitled to all the privileges of a subject of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Immanuel Case, Theodore Foster and Adam Comstock, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draught acts, in pursuance of recommendations from Congress, received since the last session of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the twenty volumes of the journals of Congress, for the year 1775, with the indexes thereto, transmitted to this Assembly, by the delegates from this state, be distributed in manner following, viz.:

One of each, to His Excellency the Governor; one, to the secretary, for the use of the upper house of Assembly; one, to the clerk of the lower house, for the use thereof; one, to the attorney general; one, to the general treasurer; one, to the sheriff of each county; one, to the clerk of the superior court; and one, to the clerk of the inferior court of each county in the state.

It is voted and resolved, that the delegates from this state in Congress, be furnished with schedules of the proceedings of this Assembly and council of war, from the commencement of hostilities, to the present time; and that in future said schedules be, from time to time, transmitted to them, by the secretary.

Whereas, it has been represented to this Assembly, that a large number of cedar rails, and a quantity of fire-wood, have been stolen from the farm in North Kingstown, leased by order of the General Assembly to John Howland,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Beriah Brown, Esq., high sheriff of the county of Kings, be, and he is hereby, appointed to examine into and find out, if possible, the person or persons who have stolen the same.

That he take such spirited steps as to him shall appear necessary for putting a stop to the said evil; and that he make report of his doings therein, to this Assembly, or the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that the journals of the proceedings of the council of war, since the appointment thereof, be printed; that they also in future be printed from time to time, with the schedules of the proceedings of this Assembly; and that when printed, they be transmitted to the persons to whom, by law, the schedules are ordered to be transmitted.

Whereas, the ship Minerva, of about three hundred tons, and the sloop called the Miss North, of about thirty tons burthen, transports in the service of the King of Great Britain, have been wrecked upon the shores of this state; and whereas, the said vessels, their cargoes and appurtenances, have been, in pursuance of warrants issued by His Excellency the Governor, and the chief justice of the superior court, taken into possession in behalf of this state, by the sheriff of Kings county,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said sheriff immediately secure all the cargo and appurtenances belonging to the said vessels, and sell the same at public vendue, as soon as notice thereof, can be publicly given; and that he advertise the time of sale three weeks successively, in the Providence and New London newspapers.

It is voted and resolved, that the books and papers belonging to the offices of the clerks of the superior and inferior courts, for the county of Providence, be forthwith brought into the town of Providence; and the clerks of the respective courts are directed to cause the same to be removed accordingly.

Whereas, William M'Clean, a transient person, was driven on shore within the town of Cranston, and his legs are much froze, so that he is in immediate want of the assistance of a physician, and other necessaries; wherefore—

It is voted and resolved, that the town council of the town of Cranston, forthwith afford the said William M'Clean the necessary assistance; and that the moneys by them expended for that purpose, be paid them out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the attorney general prosecute a libel in the court of admiralty, within this state, in behalf thereof, for the condemnation of the ship Minerva, and sloop Miss North, heretofore transports in the service of the King of Great Britain, and lately shipwrecked upon the shores of this state.

Whereas, many non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who first entered into the brigade raised by this state, under the command of General Cornell, received as a bounty the sum of £20, only; and those who enlisted since the 28th day of May last, have received a much larger bounty, and the same encouragement in every other respect as those who first enlisted; and whereas, General Cornell hath represented unto this Assembly, that by reason of severe duty, and the length of the service, those who first entered have worn out the clothing allowed them, and are now destitute,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that as a gratuity for their past services, and an encouragement to persons to engage early in the service of the state, the sum of £15, lawful money, be allowed in clothing to each non-commisioned officer and soldier, who entered into the said brigade upon the bounty and encouragement allowed by this Assembly, before the said 28th day of May; and that the agent-clothier in this state, furnish such articles of clothing as shall be required by General Cornell, for the purpose aforesaid, at the price they cost the state, including the charges; taking care not to exceed in value the said sum of £15, to each of the said non-commissioned officers and privates.

It is further voted and resolved, that each commissioned and staff officer in the said brigade, be allowed one month's pay extraordinary; and that the paymasters of the respective regiments be empowered to draw the same out of the general treasury, upon their obtaining orders for that purpose from the council of war.

Whereas, the jail in the county of Newport is now in pos-

session of the enemy, and the jail in the county of Bristol, was burnt in a late excursion of the enemy,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the sheriffs of the counties of Newport and Bristol, and their respective deputies, be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to bring any person or persons by them apprehended, or duly committed to their custody, upon a civil or criminal process, into the county of Providence, and deliver such person or persons, so apprehended, or in custody, as aforesaid, into the custody and keeping of the sheriff of the county of Providence; who is hereby empowered and directed to receive and commit him or them to the jail in the said county of Providence, and in safe custody to keep, until he or they shall be discharged by due course of law; and that he be entitled to the same fees for his services as are allowed in similar cases.

Provided nevertheless, and it is further voted and resolved, that nothing in this act shall be construed to extend to the preventing any person or persons who may be apprehended by, or be in the custody of, the said sheriffs of the counties of Newport and Bristol, or of their deputies, from being bailed if bailable, or otherwise duly discharged within the county in which he or they may be apprehended or taken into custody.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said sheriffs be liable to be sued at special courts for the neglect of any duty prescribed by this act, in manner as is directed by an act for calling special courts within this state.

Whereas, Thomas Waterman, a second lieutenant in the Continental battalion raised by this state, under the command of Col. Israel Angell, preferred a petition and represented unto this Assembly, that John Waterman, his father, was quartermaster of the said regiment, and his family was supplied with articles at the stated price, to the amount of one-quarter of his wages, to the 14th day of December, 1777, when he was appointed an assistant commissary of issues to General Varnum's brigade; from which time he never

drew any thing for the support of his family at the stated price, until the time of his death, which happened on the 24th day of April, 1778, he being then in the service of his country.

That during that period, the family was greatly distressed; his said father's wages not being, by any means, adequate to their support.

That he being the only son of his father, the care of the family is now devolved upon him; and that his wages as second lieutenant, so far from enabling him to contribute to their relief, is insufficient to support him according to his rank; and thereupon the said Thomas Waterman prayed this Assembly to direct that his father's family be supplied with the necessaries of life at the stated prices, to the amount of one-quarter part of his said father's wages, from the said 14th day of December, 1777, to the said 24th day of April, 1778; and from that time, to the amount of one-quarter part of his the said petitioner's wages, at the same rate; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said Thos. Waterman, in his aforesaid petition contained, be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that Thomas Cranston, Esq., who hath lately come from Newport in a flag of truce, and is represented as an unfriendly person to the United States, be permitted to reside on his farm at North Kingstown.

That he be confined to the same, and the limits of one mile thereof.

That if he shall transgress those bounds, he be forthwith apprehended by the sheriff of the county of Kings, or either of his deputies; or by any constable of the town of North Kingstown, and be thereupon committed to the jail in the said county.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Rowse J. Helme, Esq., and Theodore Foster, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare letters to the Most Honorable Continental Congress, to the

state of Connecticut, and to the state of New York, representing the distressed situation of some parts of this state, occasioned by the scarcity of bread-corn; and requesting that the embargo in those states may be dispensed with, so far as prohibits the exportation thereof to this state, by land; and that they make report to His Excellency the Governor, who is hereby requested to sign and forward them, as soon as may be.

Whereas, General Cornell, Pardon Gray, Esq., and Major Thomas Sheffield, presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, relative to certain Property lost in the Expedition against Rhode Island.

We, the subscribers, being appointed by the Honorable General Assembly, a committee to appraise a number of boats and oars lost in the intended expedition against Rhode Island, in October, 1777, and to assess such damages to the owners as we should think proper, did, in obedience to our appointment, meet at Tiverton, this 24th day of December, 1778, and appraise the said boats and oars at the several sums affixed against them, in the following order.

It was our intention to appraise the said boats at the prices they would have sold for, at the time when they were charged.

As to damages, it is our opinion, that no more can be expected than the interest of the money, from the time of the charge until payment be made; the power of doing it, we suppose to be lodged solely in the General Assembly or council of war, to whom we refer the affair.

Capt. Samuel Thompson, of Westerly, laid two other accounts before us; one, for guns, &c., lost at Point Judith, and the other for camp equipage furnished by the town of Westerly, which was not returned; which accounts we did not think ourselves warranted to audit, by any thing contained in our appointment.

State of Rhode Island, &c., to the following persons,			Dr. £ s. d.
1777.	Oct. 1.	To Oliver Davis, for one boat, fourteen feet keel, marked O. D., No. 1, delivered in good order	30 00 0
"	"	" Samuel Champlin, for damage of his boat, received in a condition not fit for use	20 00 0
"	"	" John Ross, for one boat, twelve feet keel, marked J. R., No. 3, delivered in good order	30 00 0
"	"	" David Saunders, for one boat, fifteen feet keel, straight rabbet, No. 4, delivered in good order	31 00 0
"	"	" Samuel Thompson, for one Vineyard pilot-boat, twenty-two and-a-half feet keel, No. 5, delivered in good order	70 00 0

			£	s.	d.
1777.	Oct. 1.	To Nathan Babcock, for one boat, eighteen feet keel, No. 6, delivered in good order	40	00	0
"	"	" John Gardner, for one Vineyard pilot-boat, nineteen feet keel, No. 7, straight rabbet, in good order	70	00	0
"	"	" Ichabod Babcock, for one Vineyard pilot-boat, eighteen feet keel, No. 8, delivered in good order	40	00	0
"	"	" Joseph Clarke, for one boat, eighteen feet keel, No. 9, delivered in good order	40	00	0
"	"	" Thomas Wickham, for a whaleboat, twenty-one feet eight inches keel, No. 10, delivered in good order	30	00	0
"	"	" Fifty oars, belonging to the said boats, containing seven hundred and fifty feet, at 1*s.* 3*d.* per foot	46	17	6
			£447	17	6

EZEKIEL CORNELL,
PARDON GRAY,
THOMAS SHEFFIELD.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; and that it be recommended to the Hon. Major General Sullivan to pay the sums therein mentioned, to the persons to whom the same are reported to be due.

It is voted and resolved, that the time for collecting and paying into the general treasury the tax of £30,000, lawful money, heretofore assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, be prolonged to the 1st day of February next; and that the same be then paid into the general treasury; or in default thereof, that warrants of distraint be issued by the general treasurer against the town treasurers of the delinquent towns, agreeably to law.

It is voted and resolved, that Brigadier General Cornell, Col. Pardon Gray, Major Thomas Sheffield and Col. Joseph Stanton, be, and they or any two of them are hereby, appointed a committee, to ascertain the damages sustained by the persons who were the owners of certain articles certified to have been lost with the boats that were sunk at Point Judith, in October, 1777, so far as respects the said articles; and that they make report as soon as may be.

Resolved, that the interest arising and due upon the notes which were made by the general treasurer, upon an interest

of six per cent. per annum, in pursuance of a resolution of this Assembly, passed in December, 1776, be paid unto the possessors of the same notes, up to the time the said notes became due, out of the general treasury of this state.

That an interest of six per cent. per annum, be further allowed upon said notes, from the said time of payment until the same shall be paid; and that a copy of this resolution be published in the next Providence Gazette.

Resolved, that the council of war meet at the state house in Providence, on Monday, the 25th instant, for the dispatch of business.

That the committees of the several towns, for supplying the officers, and soldiers' families at stated prices, bring in at that time their several accounts, excepting such of them as may think proper in the mean time to adjust their accounts with Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, the auditor of accounts; and that the secretary publish a copy of this order in the next Providence Gazette.

Whereas, Col. Joseph Stanton, Jr., and Major Thomas Sheffield, presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, to appraise certain articles lost at Point Judith.

We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee, with General Cornell and Col. Gray, to ascertaln the damages sustained by the persons who were the owners of certain articles lost at Point Judith, in October, 1777, agreeably to our appointment, by the Honorable General Assembly, do report as follows:

That the said articles were worth the different prices annexed to their several accounts, as follows, viz.:

	£	s.	d.
Articles lost, belonging to Timothy Bagley, deceased, to wit:			
One gun, bayonet and cartouch-box, one beaver hat, half-worn, a pocket-book with $15; all at	14	10	0
Articles lost, belonging to Joseph Burdick, deceased:			
One gun and bayonet, one flannel jacket, one linen shirt, one worsted stocking, one she and brass buckle; all at	8	02	0
Articles lost, belonging to Isaac Pendleton, deceased:			
One gun, one knapsack, one new pair of broadcloth breeches, with turtle-shell buttons; one shirt, one pair of yarn stockings, one linen handkerchief, one felt hat, one pot weighing twenty-two pounds, one large wooden bowl; all at	11	04	0

	£ s. d.
Articles lost, belonging to William and Nahum Babcock, deceased:	
Two guns, two bayonets, two canteens, one cartouch-box, one beaver hat, two-thirds worn; one new felt hat, one pint basin; all at	15 10 0
Articles lost, belonging to Jabez Cheesborough, deceased:	
One gun, one bayonet, one cartouch-box; town property. One knapsack, one linen shirt, one loose broadcloth coat, half worn; one pair of new stockings, one pair of linen breeches, one felt hat, a pocket-book, with $6; all at	7 01 0
Articles belonging to Joseph Hall, deceased:	
One gun, bayonet and cartouch-box,; town property. One new broadcloth coat, a new felt hat, one new linen handkerchief, and a shirt half worn, all at, except the gun and cartouch-box.....	4 00 0
Articles lost, belonging to Nathan Babcock, 3d, deceased:	
One gun, one knapsack, one great coat, one thick blanket, one pair of new serge breeches, one flannel shirt almost new, two pair of good stockings, one pair of brass buckles, a felt hat almost new, $6 in cash; all at	16 15 0
Articles lost, belonging to John Pendleton:	
One gun, one bayonet and knapsack; all at	6 00 0
Articles lost, belonging to Oliver Burdick:	
One bayonet, gun and cartouch-box, one good flannel shirt, one pair of new stockings, one shoe, one pair of shoe-buckles, one pillow-case, one towel, one quart basin, one pewter plate and spoon; all at	9 03 0
Articles lost, belonging to Amos Pendleton and Zebulon Pendleton:	
Two guns with bayonets, two knapsacks, one good surtout coat, one close-bodied coat, one pair of broadcloth breeches, two good shirts, two pair of yarn stockings, one thick pair of breeches, three shoes, one silver shoe-buckle, one pair of silver knee-buckles; all at.	29 12 0
Articles lost, belonging to Thompson Burdick:	
One gun, bayonet and cartouch-box, one silk handkerchief, one beaver hat, one pair of stockings, one pair of shoes, a linen handkerchief, $12, in cash all at.....	14 04 0
Articles lost, belonging to Paul Babcock:	
One gun, one hat, one shoe and brass buckle; all at.....	6 03 0
Articles taken by order of the town council, from John Latham:	
One pot weighing twenty-four and one-half pounds, one tray; all at	1 04 4
Articles taken from Jonathan Foster:	
One pot weighing twenty-two pounds.....	16 6
Articles taken from Jeremiah Willcox:	
One pot weighing thirty-five pounds, one pipkin; all at	1 06 0
	£145 15 10

JOSEPH STANTON, JR.,
THOMAS SHEFFIELD,
Committee.

January 3, 1779.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; and that it be recommended to the Hon. Major General Sullivan, to pay the sum of £145 15*s.* 10*d.*, lawful

money, to Colonel Joseph Stanton, Jr., for the use of the persons who are entitled to the same, agreeably to said report.

Whereas, great difficulties have arisen in supplying the officers and soldiers of the Continental battalions raised by this state, with articles at the stated prices, by the committees of the several towns, pursuant to an act of this Assembly, heretofore passed; and as furnishing the said officers and soldiers with subsistence money, in addition to the wages and allowances made to them by the Continent, will be a more certain method of answering the purposes intended, and prevent very great trouble and expense,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that in lieu of the articles they were to receive at the stated prices, of the committees of the several towns, they shall in future receive the following sums per month, in money, of this state's commissary, whether they have families or not; that is to say:

Pay of Officers per Month.

A colonel shall receive	$66 00
A lieutenant colonel,	52 00
A major,	43 00
Each captain,	35 00
Each lieutenant,	30 00
Each ensign,	25 00
Each surgeon,	52 00
Each surgeon's mate,	35 00

per month, for subsistence money; and that the other staff officers be allowed and paid in proportion to their wages; and that—

A sergeant shall receive	$20 00
Each corporal, drummer and fifer,	19 00
Each private soldier,	18 00

for subsistence money, for themselves and families, over and

above the wages he or they may receive of the regimental paymaster.

The non-commissioned officers and soldiers who have families, the money shall be paid their families, by the town councils of the respective towns in which they live, the said town councils receiving the same of Thomas Greene, Esq., the present commissary; and those who have no families are to be paid in camp, by the said commissary.

And it is further voted and resolved, that one-sixteenth part of all the field, commissioned and staff officers' wages, and one-quarter part of the wages of the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, are yet to be paid in camp, as heretofore ordered, in rum, molasses, sugar and coffee, at their several stated prices, with the charge of transportation thereon.

And it is further voted and resolved, that all acts heretofore made for the payment of any part of the wages of any officer or soldier in the respective towns, in articles at the stated prices, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

And it is further voted and resolved, that this act doth not extend to any non-commissioned officer and soldier who hath been heretofore a slave, and became free in consequence of his enlisting into the service.

And it is further voted and resolved, that one-and-an-half per cent. be allowed and paid to the town councils out of the general treasury, for transacting the aforesaid business.

And it is ordered, that a copy hereof, be transmitted to the several town clerks within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that John Brown, Esq., be, and he is hereby, directed and requested to purchase two genteel silver-hilted swords, and, in the name of this Assembly, present one to Lieutenant Colonel Silas Talbot, and the other to Lieutenant William Helme, as a testimony that this Assembly have the highest regard to their merit and gallant behavior, in capturing the enemy's armed galley Pigot; and that, for the purpose aforesaid, the said John

Brown draw a sufficient sum of money out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, and Mr. John Brown, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to wait on Major General Sullivan, and request him to cause an inquiry to be made into the number of horses belonging to the army within this department; and that he would reduce the same, if they exceed the number allowed by the resolutions of Congress.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£ s. d.
Benjamin Perry, for his time and expenses in apprehending and committing to jail one Mansfield Allen, a noted tory	9 12 0
George Pierce, for curing thirty-six sides of sole-leather and for making fifty pounds of shoe-thread	76 04 0
Lieut. Enoch Stanton, for one-quarter of his wages, &c.	80 05 6
Mrs. Experience Brown, wife Israel Brown, a soldier, for the amount of sundry claims against the state	45 15 0
Henry Marchant, one of the delegates in Congress, from Rhode Island, for expenses of himself, servant and horses to and at Yorktown, in Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia, from May 23d, to November 27th, 1778	431 11 0
Henry Marchant, for his services one hundred and ninety-five days, at 45*s.* per day	27 00 0
Daniel Tourtellott, for boarding and lodging John Osborn, a Britsh prisoner, belonging to the Lark frigate, who was captured at Prudence	27 00 0
Col. John Cooke, for sundry charges on account of wages, as one of the committee of safety	1,517 11 7
Esek Hopkins, for his expenses, and three days' service as one of the committee in adjusting the accounts of Col. John Cooke	5 08 0
George Peirce, for his horse-hire and expenses in attending as one of the members of the council of war	7 05 0
Thomas Wells, for his expenses to Providence, in attending as one of the members of the council of war	31 14 0
Josiah Humphrey, for his expenses to Providence, in attending as a member of the council of war	27 19 0
William Richmond, for his expenses and cost of procuring copies of the inventories of the effects of Charles Dudley and George Rome	3 00 0
William Chace, for attendance upon, and medicines delivered to, certain sick soldiers	24 16 0
William Chace, for boarding, nursing, administering medicines to, and dressing the wounds of John Baggs, Jr., a soldier in the service of this state	26 05 0
Col. Pardon Gray, for the pay of certain militia and alarm men, for guarding the shores in Little Compton, in October, 1777	8 12 3

	£	s.	d.
Col. Charles Dyer, empowered to draw out of the general treasury, for the wages due to his regiment	5,271	06	4
Henry Ward, for his expenses during his attendance upon the council of war	31	10	0
Col. William West, for bounty to the regiment under his command, in the late expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island	3,021	05	0
John Vaughan, for his services, &c., in carrying baggage for the Artillery Company of North Kingstown to Warwick Neck	1	04	0
William Channing, for his expenses in attending on the General Assembly, as clerk	25	10	0

God save the United States of America.

Public Acts Passed at the October and December Sessions of the General Assembly.

[The following acts, passed at the October and December sessions, are in the printed Schedules.]

An Act establishing and regulating fees. (October.)

An Act enlarging the jurisdiction of the courts of justices of the peace, in trials of civil actions. (October.)

An Act for inquiring into the ratable property of the state, and for taking a just estimate thereof. (October.)

An Act assessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £30,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state. (October.)

An Act for supplying the army within this state with forage, fuel, teams and horses, in cases of necessity. (December.)

Samuel Adams, Chairman of the Marine Committee, to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Marine Committee, Philadelphia,
December 15, 1778.

Sir:—In pursuance of the direction of Congress and the request of the minister plenipotentiary of France, I have the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency a declaration, under the hand and seal of that minister, promising a reward to every vessel that shall take or destroy a vessel of the enemy loaded with masts or spars, and destined to the ports of Halifax, Newport or New York.

It is the particular desire of the minister that this declaration may be addressed to Your Excellency, that the same may be made known in such manner as your wisdom may direct.

I am Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

By order of the marine committee,
SAMUEL ADAMS, Chairman.

To the Governor of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on Tuesday, the 19th day of January, 1779.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Immanuel Case, Jonathan Arnold, Theodore Foster, Daniel Mowry and Joseph Stanton, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to prepare a bill in amendment to the act passed at the last session, for the better supply of the army; and that they make report as soon as may be.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, that there is a large number of fat cattle now on the farm at Point Judith, in the possession of William Gorton,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Mr. Enoch Haszard immediately make application to the said William Gorton, that the said cattle be delivered him, in satisfaction for so much of the rent of the said farm, said as is due from the said William Gorton to this state; or that he otherwise dispose of the same.

That if the said William Gorton shall refuse to deliver, or otherwise immediately dispose of the same, the sheriff for the county of Kings, or his deputy, is hereby empowered and directed forthwith to take the said cattle into possession, and remove them to a place of safety; that the said sheriff or his deputy make report to this Assembly, or in the recess thereof, to the council of war; and that a copy thereof, be transmitted to the said Enoch Haszard, and to the sheriff of Kings county.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Charles Dyer and Mr. Stephen Boyer, be cited by the sheriff of the county of

Kings, to appear before the council of war, to be holden at Providence, on the 25th day of January instant, that the deficiency of stock belonging to the farm, now in the possession of the said Charles Dyer, and which was to have been delivered by the said Stephen Boyer, may be adjusted, and delivered to the said Charles Dyer, agreeably to his lease.

It is voted and resolved, that the real estates heretofore taken possession of in behalf of this state, in pursuance of resolutions of this Assembly, be leased at public vendue to the highest bidder, for the same, for one year, to commence on the 25th day of March next.

That the rents of the said estates be paid in corn, rye, cheese, butter, beef, pork and wool, at the prices heretofore stated by this Assembly, to be delivered at or before the expiration of the leases.

That the rents which may be due for the estates to the southward of Pawtuxet river, be delivered at East Greenwich; those for the estates in the counties of Bristol and Newport, at Bristol; and those for the estates in the county of Providence, at Providence; and that the said estates be leased to none but such as are deemed friends of the United States.

It is further voted and resolved, that William Bradford, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to lease the said estates, agreeably to this resolution; that he advertise the time of leasing the same two weeks successively in the Providence Gazette; and that the persons who are the highest bidders for the same, obtain sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of the said William Bradford, or otherwise that said estates be again leased at public vendue, as is before directed.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Kings be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to sell a certain dwelling house, now in the possession of this state, lately belonging to Thomas Cutter, situate in North Kingstown, at public vendue, to the highest bidder; and that the

purchaser be empowered to remove the same from off the land on which it now stands.

It is voted and resolved, that each of the field, commissioned and staff officers, in the brigade raised by this state, and now under the immediate command of Brigadier Gen. Cornell, be allowed one month's pay, in addition to what is already allowed them, as a gratuity for their past service.

It is voted and resolved, that the vote allowing the auditor of accounts $4 per day, for his services, be, and the same is hereby, repealed; that he be employed in the said service only during the sitting of this Assembly, or of the council of war; and that he be allowed $11 for each day's attendance on the said business, in full compensation for wages and expenses.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, and Mr. President Manning, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to wait on the Honorable General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, and represent to them the distresses of this state for want of provisions; more especially of the unhappy persons who have left Rhode Island; and earnestly solicit a repeal of their act for laying a land embargo upon provisions, so far as may respect this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the act passed at the last session of this Assembly, entitled "An act for supplying the army within this state with forage," &c., be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that His Excellency the Governor be requested to write to the delegates of this state at Congress, and instruct them to represent that this state, from the loss of its trade, from the necessary decrease of husbandry, owing to the enemy's being in the bowels of the state, upon account of the great numbers of inhabitants who have left Rhode Island, destitute of the necessaries of life, and from other causes, is unable to pay so large a proportion of the $15,000,000, ordered by Congress to be levied upon the United States, in the year 1779, as they paid off

the tax ordered by Congress in November, 1777; and direct them to use their best endeavors to have only an equitable proportion assigned to this state.

Whereas, the committee who were appointed to prepare the draft of a letter to the General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, laid the same before this Assembly; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said draft be, and the same is hereby, approved; and that a fair copy thereof, signed by His Excellency the Governor, be transmitted by the committee appointed to wait on the said Assembly.

Whereas, at the June session, A. D. 1778, His Honor the Deputy Governor, William Bradford, Esq., and Mr. Cromel Child, were appointed a committee, to inquire into the truth of the facts contained in the petition of George Bethune and Martin Brimmer, respecting the estate of Thomas Palmer; and the said committee not having made any report thereon,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be referred to the same committee; and that they make report to this Assembly at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war, at their next meeting, make inquiry into the state of the inhabitants who came off from Rhode Island, and need relief, and direct the committee appointed to receive donations for them, to procure authentic lists, specifying their numbers, sexes and ages; and in what towns now resident; in order that the same may be laid before this Assembly at the next session that such further measures may be taken for their support, as may appear necessary.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Samuel Babcock, for valuing the negro slaves enlisting into Col. Greene's regiment	9	12	0
Beriah Waite, for distributing public acts of Assembly to towns	10	10	0

William Barton, of Warren, for collecting state tax	16 04 0
John Jenckes, for settling Col. Cooke's accounts	5 08 0
Appropriation for the relief of the poor of Newport	500 00 0
Capt. Ezra Ormsbee, for bounties due his company	37 6 8
Thomas Corey, for use of his horse, while acting as quartermaster	21 12 0
Mary Mathewson, for loss of house burned by Indians, on the frontier	30 00 0
William Channing, for expenses, and services as clerk of Assembly	17 02 1
Henry Gardner, for services while guarding prisoners	5 08 0

God save the United States of America.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the Delegates in Congress.

Warwick, January 7, 1779.

Gentlemen:—The distresses of the inhabitants on Rhode Island increase so fast that large numbers are daily leaving the island and coming over to us. I wish we were able to afford them that support which they deserve on every consideration; more especially as they have now left their all for the cause of virtue and liberty. But alas, it is totally out of our power to supply them with the necessary article of bread, through a real scarcity of grain.

You are sensible that at the best of times, this state never raised bread-corn sufficient to support its own inhabitants; nearly one-quarter of the best plow-land is now in possession of the enemy; and other considerable tracts so exposed, that the occupiers have not dared nor been able to plant them for two years past. Added to all this, a strict embargo from all the western and southern states.

We have had no other resources than what we have found in our own territory, and some small quantities with which we have been furnished from the Massachusetts. It must be spoken to their honor, that although they have many large sea-port towns to supply of their own, they have freely permitted us to purchase provisions in their state, without molestation.

We have repeatedly applied to the authority of the state of Connecticut, for liberty to purchase and transport by land bread and meat for the support of the inhabitants of this state; but have been always put off without having our request gaanted.

'Tis an express vote of our General Assembly that you lay this matter before Congress, and request them, in the strongest terms, to take it up, and so far interest themselves in our behalf, as to have the embargoes repealed in New York and Connecticut, as respects supplying the inhabitants of this state with provisions by land.

If some relief is not speedily granted, many of the poorer sort of inhabitants, especially those that have come off from Rhode Island, must inevitably perish for want.

We doubt not you will make a warm and spirited application to Congress on the grievance as pointed out. Your own general knowledge of the truth of the above facts, with others, prevents my adding any thing further at present.

You will be as speedy in your application as possible, and make return of your success.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

W. GREENE.

To the Honorable the Delegates in Congress from Rhode Island.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Governor Clinton of New York.

Warwick, January 7, 1779.

Sir:—The necessary article of bread is so scarce in this state, that the General Assembly have directed me to write to Your Excellency, requesting that the embargo may be so far dispensed with, as to permit flour and grain to be transported by land from your state, for the sole purpose of feeding the inhabitants of this.

This state never produced bread-corn sufficient for the inhabitants thereof, at the best of times; but always imported large quantities from yours, and the other southern states.

The enemy have been in possession of near one-third of the best plow-land in this state, for more than two years. From the large bodies of militia that we have been obliged to keep on duty the whole time, we have not been able to improve the lands that we had remaining in our possessions, in the best manner. Add to all this, that there are several thousands of the inhabitants of Rhode Island come off, that must be supported among us; a great part of them in necessitous circumstances.

Your Excellency will be able to judge, from what your own inhabitants suffer, how hard the lot of those poor people must be, when I inform you that corn nor flour cannot be purchased for money at any price whatever.

We have made repeated application to our sister state of Connecticut for them to grant us the favor we now ask of you; but all in vain. We have given our delegates instructions to lay our unhappy case before Congress, and to request their interposition with your state and Connecticut for relief.

On the whole, we doubt not Your Excellency will take the earliest opportunity to lay this request before your Assembly, or Executive Council, and use your influence that our reasonable request shall be granted.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most humble servant,

WILLIAM GREENE.

To His Excellency George Clinton, Esq.

The Governor of Rhode Island to the General Assembly of Connecticut.

State of Rhode, Island, &c.,
Providence, January 21st, 1779.

Gentlemen:—The alarming and truly distressed situation of this state, with respect to provision in general, but more especially that of bread, hath for a long time engaged the attention of the Legislature. Repeated applications have been made to His Excellency Governor Trumbull, in order to obtain a repeal of your non-exportation act, with respect to provision for the use of the inhabitants of this state, but without effect.

We are confident that were you fully sensible of the distresses to which the inhabitants are reduced for want of provision, that we should not have been under the necessity of troubling you with this application.

You, gentlemen, cannot be unacquainted that this state hath ever been obliged to her sister states for a supply of provision for the absolute subsistence of her inhabitants.

We at no period ever growed grain sufficient for their consumption; but more especially at this time, when we have for upwards of two years past, had the enemy in

the centre of the state; near one-third part of our best lands in their possession, and the husbandman and laborer almost constantly upon military duty.

In July last, one-half part of all the fencible men within this state were called out upon the expedition against Rhode Island, and continued in the field upwards of one month, whereby great part of the first harvest of grain was entirely lost. The storm which happened in August afterwards, together with the injury which the Indian corn received for want of laborers, hath deprived the inhabitants of the usual quantity of grain. Add to this, near two thousand persons, who have been driven from Rhode Island by the enemy, are now among us, the greater part of whom subsist by charity.

The most obdurate heart would relent to see old age and childhood, from comfortable circumstances, reduced to the necessity of begging for a morsel of bread; and even that they cannot often obtain; not for the want of a sympathetic feeling in the inhabitants for their distresses, but merely from their inability to relieve them.

We have therefore appointed the Honorable Jabez Bowen, Esq., Lieutenant Governor, and Mr. President Manning, a committee to represent our deplorable circumstances; and in order that you should not entertain any suspicions that the provision which may be brought into this state, should fall into the hands of monopolists, we request that Your Honors would grant the exportation thereof, under such restrictions as you shall think most conducive to the general weal.

And reposing special confidence in our committee, we engage to fulfil any agrrements which they may enter into respecting the premises; to whom we refer you for a more particular information of our distresses.

In the name and in behalf of the General Assembly,
I am, with great esteem, honorable gentlemen,
Your very humble servant,
WILLIAM GREENE.

To the General Assembly of Connecticut.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the last Monday in February, 1779.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kings, or his deputy, immediately apprehend Waite Saunders, Thomas Carpenter and Peleg Hoxsie, who are charged with having carried on an illicit commerce with the inhabitants of New Shoreham, and bring them before this Assembly to answer the said complaint.

That the said sheriff, or his deputy, summon Henry Nor-

thup, ——— Wickes, who lives on the farm improved by Wm. Gorton, Robert Champlin, John Cross, Samuel Taylor, Simon Littlefield, John Sands, John Paine, Stephen Franklin, Edw. Sands and Robert Congdon, to appear immediately before this Assembly, upon the penalty of £150, lawful money each, for non-appearance, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record within this state proper to try the same; and that His Excellency the Governor be requested to issue warrants and summons, agreeably to this resolution.

It is voted and resolved, that a further time of twenty days be allowed to the delinquent towns for paying into the general treasury the taxes heretofore assessed upon, and yet due from them, in any of the moneys emitted by Congress; and that the said delinquent towns pay interest on the sums due from them respectively, from the times assigned for the payment of the same into the general treasury.

It is further voted and resolved, that if the said delinquent towns shall neglect to pay the sums due from them respectively, with the interest, as aforesaid, within the said term of twenty days, that the emissions of May 20, 1777, and April 11, 1778, shall not be received in payment for the sums which shall be due after the expiration of that time.

Whereas, warrants have not as yet been issued by the general treasurer to the collectors of rates of the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton, for collecting their proportion of the last tax ordered by this Assembly, which was owing to the rate bills for those towns not having been delivered to the general treasurer in season,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to issue warrants to the said collectors, for collecting the said taxes, with the interest due thereon, from the 1st day of February inst.; and that the said collectors forthwith proceed to collect and pay the same into the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. John Updike hath been appointed by the council of war, in pursuance of a resolution of the General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, to purchase a quantity of grain within that state, for the use of the inhabitants of this state; and hath received for that purpose £2,000, out of the general treasury; and whereas, the said grain ought to be distributed to the towns in proportion to their necessities, and the expense and risk of purchasing and importing the same, ought to be borne by the towns which will be benefited thereby,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the several towns hereinafter mentioned, be, and they are hereby, empowered to raise in such manner as they shall think proper, the sum of money set against each town or any part thereof; and that they pay the same to the said John Updike, within fifteen days after the rising of this Assembly, who is hereby empowered and directed to purchase grain therewith, agreeably to the said resolution of the General Assembly of Connecticut, and distribute the same to the said towns, in proportion to the sums by them respectively advanced.

Proportion of Money ordered by the General Assembly to be furnished by the several Towns, for the Purchase of Grain from Connecticut.

Providence	$43,200	North Kingstown,	$2,400
East Greenwich,	7,200	Hopkinton, -	1,800
Warren, -	7,200	Johnston, -	600
Bristol, - -	7,200	North Providence, -	600
Tiverton, -	4,800	Warwick -	600
Little Compton,	2,400	Cranston, -	600
Westerly -	2,400		
Charlestown, -	3,000		$84,000

It is further voted and resolved, that if either of the said towns shall neglect to advance the money assigned to it, or any part thereof, within the time limited, the town of

Providence be empowered to advance two-third parts; the town of Warren, one-sixth part; and the town of East Greenwich, one-sixth part of such deficient sum, within six days after the expiration of the said limited time; and that if the said towns, or either of them, shall neglect to advance such deficient sum within the said six days, then the town which shall first apply with such deficient sum, shall be empowered to advance the same, and to receive the grain which shall be purchased therewith, agreeably to this resolution.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said John Updike re-pay the said sum of £2,000 into the general treasury, in any of the bills of credit emitted by Congress, excepting the emissions of May 20, 1777, and April 11, 1778; and that this state be not subject to any expense attending the purchasing or importing the said grain; but that it be borne by the towns which are to receive the same, in proportion to the sums by them respectively advanced.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £90,000, lawful money, be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, on the 1st day of April next, for the payment of the proportion of the Continental tax for the year 1779, assigned to this state by Congress.

That the one-half part thereof, be collected and paid into the general treasury, on or before the 20th day of May next, in any of the moneys heretofore emitted by the Congress; and that the other half part of the said tax be collected and paid into the general treasury, on or before the 1st day of December next, in any of the bills of credit emitted by the Congress, excepting the emissions of May 20, 1777, and April 11, 1778.

Provided nevertheless, that the collectors of taxes be empowered to receive the whole of the said tax of any of the inhabitants who may choose to pay the same before the

said 20th day of May, in the said emissions of May 20, 1777, and April 11, 1778.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the poll-tax be sixpence upon every £1,000; and that the said tax be assessed agreeably to the last tax apportioned upon the several towns in this state.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the several towns be empowered to make choice of new assessors and collectors, for assessing and collecting the said tax; and that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford prepare a bill, agreeably to this resolution.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition of Clarke Albro, who was wounded in the action of the 29th of August, upon Rhode Island, praying for an allowance, be referred to the committee appointed by this Assembly to make allowances to officers and soldiers wounded in the Continental service, agreeably to the resolutions of Congress.

Whereas, great uneasiness hath arisen upon account of a large purchase of corn made in the state of Connecticut, by James Rhodes, formerly of this state,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor be, and he is hereby, appointed to draught a letter to Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut, acquainting him with the information received respecting the said purchase, in order that a further inquiry may be made concerning the same; and that His Honor make report to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Pardon Gray, Esq., and Mr. Robert Stevens immediately dispose of the turpentine in their possession, belonging to the state; and that they render an account of the sales thereof; and also of the turpentine belonging to the state heretofore disposed of by them to this Assembly.

Whereas, John Northup, Thomas Tillinghast and John Chapman, Esqs., presented unto this Assembly the following report and account, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly for Settling the Rents of the Farm Hired by Samuel Carr.

We, the subscribers, being appointed by the Honorable General Assembly, a committee, to settle the accounts of the farm whereon Samuel Carr lives, lying in Exeter, for the year 1779, and to the 25th day of March, 1780, did, in obedience to our appointment, meet on the said farm on the 15th of January last, and viewed the same.

We beg leave to report, as our opinions, that the said Samuel Carr have the same farm for the term of one year, from the 25th day of March, 1779, for the rent of $105, to be paid in the following articles of produce, at the prices set and affixed by the first act of the General Assembly, stating the prices of goods, &c., to wit:

Good Indian corn, rye, oats, sheep's wool, flax, beef, pork, cheese.

That he do not pay all the rents in the highest or lowest of those articles.

That he pay all the rates and taxes which shall be assessed upon the said farm during the said term.

That he lay down twelve acres of the lands now in Indian hills, and sow five pounds of good hay-seed on each acre.

That he do not break up more than twelve acres of land.

That he carry no manure nor hay off the said farm, nor cut down more wood than shall be necessary for the use thereof; and that at the expiration of said term, he shall deliver up the said farm in as good repair as he received the same.

JOHN NORTHUP,
THOMAS TILLINGHAST,
JOHN CHAPMAN.

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid report be, and the same is hereby, accepted and approved.

Whereas, there is a number of persons summoned by, and now attending this Assembly, to give evidence concerning the illicit commerce carried on from the main to Block Island and Rhode Island; and whereas, it will be a less expense of time and trouble to this Assembly to examine them by a committee,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Gideon Comstock, Stephen Potter, Daniel Mowry and Rowse J. Helme, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee for that purpose; and that they state the principal circumstances they shall discover, and make report thereof, to this Assembly.

Whereas, Messrs. George Bethune and Martin Brimmer, as agents and attorneys of Thomas Palmer, Esq., late of the

state of Massachusetts Bay, now of Paramaribo, in Surinam, have presented unto this Assembly, a petition, representing that the said Thomas Palmer was possessed, in his own right, of a tract of land in Bristol, in this state.

That this Assembly were pleased, by an order passed at the session held in December, A. D. 1776, to direct the sheriff of the county of Bristol to take possession of the said estate, upon a suggestion that the said Thomas Palmer was an enemy to the United States of America; and that the said Thomas Palmer, so far from being an enemy to the United States, hath on all occasions, by an uniform conduct, testified his friendship to them, and the great cause in which they are engaged for the security of their rights; and whereas, the said Thomas Palmer, being late an inhabitant of the state of Massachusetts Bay, and having property therein, this Assembly conceive that the Great and General Court of that state, or the council thereof, are better acquainted with the character of the said Thomas Palmer, than this Assembly,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said George Bethune and Martin Brimmer, make application to the General Court of the said state of Massachusetts Bay, or to the council thereof, for proper attestations respecting the character of the said Thomas Palmer; and also for certificates, certifying whether or not the said state of Massachusetts Bay have seized the estate of the said Thomas Palmer within their jurisdiction, or any part thereof, or laid any prohibition on the said estate; and if it shall appear, upon the certificates aforesaid, being produced to the council of war, for this state, that the said Thomas Palmer is not considered by the said Court of Massachusetts Bay, as a person inimical to the United States; and that his, the said Thomas Palmer's, estate within the state of Massachusetts Bay, hath not been seized nor molested, that then said council of war do pass a resolve, for putting the said Thomas Palmer, by his attorneys, into possession of the same lands.

That the said council of war inquire what rents, &c., this

state have received arising upon the said estate, and give an order upon the treasury of this state in favor of the said attorneys for what shall be due; and that thereupon the said Thomas Palmer, by his attorneys, give unto this state a full discharge and release upon account of the premises aforesaid.

Upon application of Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., now upon the island of Rhode Island,—

It is voted and resolved, that he be received with his family, and permitted to reside on his estate in the town of Providence.

It is voted and resolved, that the order of the council of war for delivering to Capt. Cranston, of the ship Minerva, a transport in the service of the enemy, lately wrecked on the shores of this state, his mathematical instruments and other effects, be, and the same is hereby, approved.

The militia laws of this state being multiplied to a very great number, and scattered through many schedules, so that they are in the utmost confusion, and consequently insufficient to effect the good purposes for which they were enacted,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Brigadier General Varnum, and Jonathan Arnold and Adam Comstock, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare an act for the better disciplining, governing and exerting the strength of the militia of this state.

That they endeavor to form one complete law, so as to supercede all the former laws of this state, respecting the militia; and that they make report to this Assembly at the session to be holden on the first Wednesday in May next, or sooner if may be.

Whereas, Mr. Edward Kithen Walcott, of Brookline, in the state of Massachusetts Bay, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that his wife is entitled to a quarter-part of the farm in Point Judith, commonly called the Point Farm, and prayed that the same may be delivered to him in right of his said wife, to be holden as tenants, in

common with the state, until a division shall be made; and also to pay him one-quarter part of the rents thereof, received by the state,—

It is voted and resolved, that Theodore Foster, Adam Comstock and William Channing, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to take the said petition into consideration; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Richard Bush, whose house, with almost all his substance, was burnt upon Jamestown, by the enemy, and who thereupon removed to Newport, where he resided until the day before the enemy took possession of that place, be considered as an inhabitant of the island of Rhode Island, and receive a proportionable part of all grants and donations made to such of them as have come upon the main, agreeably to the act of this Assembly, appointing a committee to receive donations, &c.

This Assembly being sensible of the abilities and good conduct, as an officer, of the Honorable Major General Sullivan, since his taking the command of the army within this state; and of the active zeal with which he hath exerted the forces under him, for the preservation of this state and the security of its inhabitants,—

Do unanimously resolve, that His Honor the DeputyGovernor, Mr. John Brown and Theodore Foster, Esq., as a committee of this Assembly, wait upon the General, and in their names return him their sincere thanks; and assure him, that as they cannot entertain a doubt of his perseverance in such measures as may in subservience to the public interests best promote those of this state, so they most cordially wish an uninterrupted continuance of that mutual harmony, which hath ever subsisted between the General and this Assembly, in all such measures.

Whereas, Rowland Robinson, Esq., hath represented unto this Assembly, that Major Franks, in July, 1778, impressed a horse, saddle and bridle, belonging to him, by which he hath been greatly endamaged; and that a number of British

prisoners, in August last, were billeted upon him, for which he hath received no compensation; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him relief,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be recommended to the Honorable Major General Sullivan, to cause such redress to be made to the said Rowland Robinson, as to him shall seem right.

Rowland Robinson, Esq., having requested this Assembly that his son, William Robinson, may be permitted to go upon New Shoreham, to adjust the rents of a real estate on the said island, belonging to him, the said Rowland Robinson, and to lease the same, so that he may be able to recover the rents in future; and he having agreed to be accountable for the conduct of his said son, and for his returning in one month after he shall leave the main,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that in case General Sullivan shall think it prudent, and give his consent thereto, the said William Robinson be permitted, under the inspection of Rowse J. Helme, Esq., to go upon Block Island, for the purposes and upon the conditions aforesaid.

An Act for raising and equipping fifteen hundred men.
[For this act see printed schedule.]

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £60,000, lawful money, be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, to be levied, collected, and paid into the general treasury, on or before the 16th day of April next, in any of the bills of public credit emitted by the Congress, excepting the emissions of May 20, 1777, and April 11, 1778.

That the poll-tax be sixpence upon every £1,000.

That the said tax be apportioned agreeably to the apportionment of the last tax assessed upon the inhabitants.

That the several towns be empowered to make choice of new assessors and collectors of rates; and that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford draught a bill accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to hire, in behalf of this state, the sum of £20,000, lawful money, upon interest, at the rate of six per centum per annum.

That he give notes for the payment of the said money, with interest on demand; and that the same be discharged with the moneys that shall be first paid into the general treasury, of the tax of £60,000, lawful money, to be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, in pursuance of a resolution of this Assembly passed at the present session.

Whereas, an act of this Assembly was passed at the session held in October last, for inquiring into the ratable property of this state, and appointing a committee to take an estimate thereof, agreeably to the said act, and no provision is made therein for estimating gold and silver coin,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that gold and silver coin be considered as plate, and appraised at its full value, agreeably to the said act.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to take said estimate, proceed upon that business on the 1st day of April next, and complete it as soon after that time as may be.

That for their services and expenses, while performing the same, each of them be allowed £3 12*s.*, lawful money, per day; and that they have a further allowance of their expenses on Sundays, when absent from their families.

Mr. Benjamin Sheffield, of Charlestown, having requested this Assembly to permit him to go upon Block Island, to collect the rents of a real estate on that island, belonging to him, and to lease the same,—

It is voted and resolved, that in case General Sullivan shall think it prudent and give his consent thereto, the said Benjamin Sheffield be permitted, under the inspection of Col. Joseph Stanton, Jr., to go upon Block Island, for the purpose aforesaid.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, chose the following officers to command the brigade ordered to be raised at the present session, to wit:

Officers of the Brigade Chosen.

Ezekiel Cornell, Esq., brigadier general.

Robert Elliott, Esq., colonel of the regiment of artillery.

Archibald Crary, Esq., colonel of the first battalion of infantry.

John Topham, Esq., colonel of the second battalion of infantry.

Josiah Flagg, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the regiment of artillery.

Nathaniel Hawkins, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first battalion of infantry.

James Williams, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the second battalion of infantry.

Christopher Manchester, Esq., major of the first battalion of infantry.

Samuel Phillips, Esq., major of the second battalion of infantry.

Officers Chosen for the several Companies in the Regiment of Artillery.

First company—Joshua Sayer, captain; Nathaniel Gladding, captain-lieutenant; Reuben Johnson, first lieutenant.

Second company—Gideon Westcoat, captain; Isaac Pitman, captain-lieutenant; John Remington, first lieutenant; Nathan Carpenter, second lieutenant.

Third company—John Garzia, captain; William Page, captain-lieutenant; Oliver Corey, first lieutenant.

Fourth company—Thomas Carlile, captain; Samuel Snow, captain-lieutenant; Benjamin Pitts, first lieutenant.

Fifth company—John Warner, captain; Robert Carver, captain-lieutenant; Squire Howe, first lieutenant.

Officers Chosen for the First Battalion of Infantry.

John Carr, Caleb Carr, Thomas Allen, James Parker, Nathan Olney and Abraham Tourtellot, captains.

William Lawless, captain-lieutenant of the colonel's company.

Philip Palmer, lieutenant of the lieutenant colonel's company.

Daniel Sheldon, lieutenant of the major's company.

Walter Channing, Caleb Matthews, James Potter, Daniel Dexter, Peleg Simmons, Eleazer Randall and Nathaniel Humphry, lieutenants.

Simeon Dexter, William Richmond Wairs, Samuel Northup and Benjamin Wilcox, ensigns.

Samuel Montgomery, surgeon.

Officers Chosen for the Second Battalion of Infantry.

Benjamin Hoppin, Christopher Dyer, Benjamin West, Alexander Thomas, Philip Traffan and John Handy, captains.

Joseph Springer, captain-lieutenant of the colonel's company.

James Miller, lieutenant of the lieutenant colonel's company.

Barber Peckham, lieutenant of the major's company.

Charles Handy, Gabriel Allen, John Welch, Andrew Stanton, Clarke Parker, William Helme and John Wilcox, lieutenants.

John Miller, Jeremiah Stone, Charles Hewet, Daniel Wall and Elias Jackson, esigns.

Stephen Wigneron, surgeon.

It is voted and resolved, that the towns which are to advance money, and receive in lieu thereof, a proportionable part of the grain to be purchased in Connecticut, agreeably

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to an act of this Assembly, be empowered to give directions to Mr. John Updike, respecting the importation of the said grain into this state; and that the same may be brought either by land, or in armed vessels, by water.

Provided, that the same be done agreeably to an act of the General Assembly of Connecticut, made respecting the same.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the Honorable Major General Sullivan, to purchase and equip an armed vessel, in addition to the Pigot galley now in the river, for the defence of this state, agreeably to the powers given him by Congress, in conjunction with the General Assembly or council of war of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. William Gorton, to whom the farm at Point Judith, commonly called the Point Farm, was leased the last year, be permitted to fodder his stock upon the said farm, until the 26th day of April next; upon condition that he have some persons in constant readiness, during the said time, to drive the said stock off the said Point to a place of safety, in case of an approach of the enemy.

This Assembly, having, at the session held in December last, ordered that the non-commissioned officers and privates in the brigade raised by this state, under the command of Brigadier General Cornell, who enlisted for a bounty of £20, should receive, as a gratuity $50, to be paid in clothing; part of which hath not yet been delivered,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the agent-clothier immediately call upon the several regimental paymasters to adjust their accounts; and that he settle the balance due to the non-commissioned officers and privates, by paying them the same in money.

Lieutenant Colonel Pardon Gray having certified, that, by order of Colonel Cooke, who commanded upon Rhode Island, he took a scow, belonging to Mrs. Susanna Barker, in the month of December, 1776, to bring the troops and bag-

gage from Rhode Island, which scow hath never been returned, and is now much damaged,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be recommended to the Honorable Major General Sullivan, to give orders for repairing the said scow, at the expense of the Continent.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kings forthwith remove the wife and children of George Wightman, who is now in the service of the enemy; and Thomas Haszard, of North Kingstown, with his family, to the town of Scituate; and William Vaughan, of North Kingstown, with his family, to the town of Glocester.

That the said persons be confined to the said towns to which they are to be removed; and that if they, or either of them, shall exceed the said limits, he, she, or they, so offending, shall be immediately apprehended by the sheriff of the county where found, and committed to jail in such county, there to remain until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, auditor of accounts, complete the accounts of expenditures by this state, for the public defence, since those last sent forward to Congress, as soon as may be; and that, upon the completion of the said accounts, the council of war request the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., to proceed immediately to Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that it be recommended to the Honorable Major General Sullivan, to re-examine the excuses of those persons who were employed by Colonel Wall, in the boat service, previous to the late expedition to Rhode Island, for not serving their whole tour of duty; and that, if he shall find the excuses of all, or any of them, insufficient, they be considered as other delinquents.

This Assembly taking into consideration the petition of Nathaniel Briggs, representing that he hath considerable sums of money due to him in several of the British islands, in the West Indies; and that he hath a large family, and is by the

war reduced to low circumstances, and praying to be permitted to go to the British West Indies to collect the said money,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said Nathaniel Briggs be permitted to proceed by way of St. Eustatia, or any other neutral island, to the islands of Barbadoes and Antigua, and to bring his effects, now in the said islands, into either of the United States of America; and that he do not carry with him any provisions or merchandize from the said neutral to the said British islands.

It is voted and resolved, that John Sands, Simon Ray Littlefield, Edward Sands and his wife, George Franklin, John Paine, John Littlefied and Stephen Franklin, who lately came from New Shoreham, be permitted to return there in the boat they came in, and to carry with them the plow-irons they have purchased, a pair of cart-wheels, two setts of cart-tire, three iron bars, a parcel of wooden household furniture, a quantity of ashes; and that Col. Christopher Greene be requested to give the necessary passes.

It is voted and resolved, that Colonel Christopher Greene be, and he is hereby, empowered to grant permission to Thomas Dickens, with the other persons who lately came with him from New Shoreham, to return there, and to carry any necessaries they have purchased, which the said Christopher Greene shall think will not be prejudicial to the public interest.

Whereas, during the invasion of this state by the enemy, it may be necessary for the safety thereof, and to prevent any evil minded person from carrying intelligence to the enemy, which may prove injurious to the United States, to apprehend, from time to time, persons suspected of being inimical to the said states,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Excellency the Governor, or His Honor the Deputy Governor, with any two of the assistants of this state, for the time being, be empowered to apprehend any person or persons suspected of being inimical, as aforesaid, and to order them to be confined, or removed to any place, in such manner as they

shall think proper; and that such person or persons remain confined, until discharged by this Assembly, or in the recess thereof, by the council of war.

Whereas, a committee hath been appointed, by a resolution of this Assembly, at the present session, to make inquiry into an illicit commerce, said to have been carried on from the main to Block Island and Rhode Island, who have made a report to this Assembly; from the consideration of which, a further inquiry appears to be necessary,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said committee be, and they are hereby, continued, with full power to proceed in the said inquiry, and to apprehend and commit such persons as they shall think proper, for trial, to either of the jails within this state; and that the persons who shall be so apprehended and confined, to be tried at a superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, to be holden either in the county of Providence or Kent, as the said committee shall direct; any law to the contrary in any wise, notwithstanding.

Whereas, in the act of this Assembly, appointing a committee to receive donations for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Rhode Island, no provision is made for the relief of such of the said inhabitants as reside in the states of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said committee be, and they are hereby, empowered from time to time, to afford relief to the said inhabitants residing in the said states of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, according to their necessities.

Whereas, divers persons have deserted from the service of the enemy, who were heretofore inhabitants and subjects of this state, and have been suffered to go at large, in hopes of their sincere penitence and reformation,—

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended and strictly enjoined upon all civil and military officers in this state, and others the good subjects of this or any of the United States, carefully to inspect the conduct

and conversation of all such persons in their neighborhood, and if they shall discover, or have any just cause to suspect, that such person or persons still continue inimical to the cause and interest of the United States, that they immediately give information thereof to any of the magistrates within this state, who are hereby fully empowered and commanded to apprehend such person or persons, and bind him or them over to his or their good behaviour, or commit him or them to jail, until further orders from this Assembly, or in the recess thereof, from the council of war.

It being suggested to this Assembly, that some of the field officers in the county of Kings, have made composition with delinquents, to exculpate them from the legal penalties they were liable to for their delinquency,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Jeffery Wilcox, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to make examination into the affair; and that he make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that William Potter, Esq., and Mr. Enoch Haszard, be appointed a committee to receive, on the 25th day of March next, of Mr. William Gorton, the stock belonging to the farm on Point Judith, commonly called the Point Farm, and deliver the same to Mr. Job Watson, to whom the said farm is leased for the year 1779; giving and taking receipts.

That Peter Phillips and John Northup, Esqs., be appointed a committee to receive of Col. Charles Dyer on the said 25th day of March, the stock belonging to the farm in North Kingstown, late the property of George Rome, and deliver it to Mr. Silas Gardner, to whom the said estate is leased for the year 1779; giving and taking receipts.

And that Pardon Gray and William Richmond, Esqs., be appointed a committee to inquire into the circumstances of certain buildings and rails on the farm commonly called Quacut Farm, claimed by Ebenezer Slocum, the present tenant thereof; and if they shall appear to be the property

of the said Ebenezer Slocum, that he be permitted to appropriate them to his own use.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kings immediately take possession of the real estate of Samuel Gardner (who is now with the enemy at Newport), lying in South Kingstown, and improved by Abijah Babcock.

That he lease the same at public vendue, to the highest bidder for articles of produce at the stated prices.

That William Bradford, Esq., be empowered to execute a lease thereof, to the highest bidder; and that no person be permitted to bid, who is inimical to the liberties of the United States.

It is voted and resolved, that those persons who have come upon the main, and were known to be freemen in either of the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown, before the enemy took possession thereof, be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to meet on the third Wednesday in April next, at 10 o'clock, in the forenoon, for the purpose of choosing general officers, and deputies, for their respective towns, at the following places, to wit:

Those from Newport and Middletown, in Providence.

Those from Portsmouth, at the house of Mrs. Susanna Barker, in Tiverton.

Those from Jamestown, at the house of Mr. Matthew Allen, in North Kingstown.

That they conduct their meetings agreeably to the former usages and practices of their respective towns; and that a copy of this resolve be inserted in the next Providence Gazette.

Mrs. Susanna Burlingame having represented unto this Assembly, that her late husband, William Burlingame, was killed in the service, at Tiverton, and had due to him at the time of his death, the following articles of clothing, being part of his bounty, to wit:

One blanket, one shirt, one pair of shoes, one pair of breeches, one jacket, one rifle frock, and a pair of overalls; and prayed that the same, or the value thereof, in money, may be delivered to her, for the support of her children,—

It is voted and resolved, upon due consideration, that the agent-clothier pay unto the said Susanna Burlingame, the amount of clothing not delivered, in money.

Esek Hopkins, Esq., who was appointed one of the committee to take an estimate of the ratable property in this state, agreeably to the act passed at the session held in October last, for taking a general estimate, having declined serving,—

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Mowry, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed one of the said committee in his stead.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, auditor of accounts, procure a sett of books for making fair entries of all the accounts of this state against the United States.

That he procure a proper assistant in the business committed to his charge, whenever he shall have occasion; and that he make a thorough search into the secretary's office for all the vouchers that may be lodged there, for any of the charges against the United States, in order that they may be properly entered and laid before the Continental commissioners, who may be appointed by Congress to settle the accounts of this state against the United States.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq., and Henry Ward, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draught a letter to Congress, representing the condition of this state; its inability to defend the same against the enemy, the necessity of raising a brigade for the common defence and safety of this and the other United States; their inability so to do, and the ex-

hausted state of their finances, owing to the neglect of our sister states in not fulfilling the agreements entered into at the convention of Springfield; and request the assistance of Congress, for money and clothing for the soldiers.

That they also write to the delegates, respecting the alteration of the route of the post through this state, and represent the inconveniences that will arise by his passing only through a small corner of this state.

That they also write letters, in the most pressing terms, to our sister states of Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut and New Hampshire, to perform the aforementioned agreement entered into at Springfield.

And that the letters being approved of by His Excellency the Governor, be signed by him, and sent with the letters that General Sullivan shall send to Congress, and the aforesaid states, respecting the necessary measures to be taken for the ensuing campaign.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to adjust the accounts of the officers in Colonel Greene's battalion, make report to the council of war, who are hereby empowered to give orders on the general treasury in favor of the said officers, for such sums as shall be due to them; and that the said committee immediately adjust the account of John Singer Dexter, and give him an order for the balance on the general treasurer, who is hereby directed to pay the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war meet at the state house in Providence, on Monday, the 8th day of March next, at three of the clock in the afternoon, to proceed upon the business of the state.

It is voted and resolved, that the General Assembly to be holden on the first Wednesday in May next, for the choice of officers, and doing the other business of the state, be holden at Providence.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Perez Richmond, for leasing sequestered estates	7	01	0
Rev. James Manning, for his time and expenses in going to Hartford, to wait upon the General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, to solicit permission to purchase grain for the use of the inhabitants of this state, and to take off the land embargo	53	10	0
Deputy Governor Jabez Bowen, for his time and expenses in going to Hartford, to purchase grain for the inhabitants of this state	63	13	0
John Northup, Thomas Tillinghast and John Chapman, as committee relative to Samuel Carr, &c.	6	06	0
James Sheldon, auctioneer, for letting sequestered estates by vendue	6	00	0
Rowland Robinson, for supplying wood to the troops on Boston Neck	41	15	0
Job Greenman, a wounded soldier, allowance to him	31	04	0
John Northup, for currying leather, &c.	21	02	0
John Potter, Jr., for services as quartermaster	41	05	0
Christopher Manchester, for injuries to his property by British troops	18	00	0
Capt. Gideon Westcott, for losses sustained by him while in service	60	00	0
Lieut. Col. Thomas Potter, Jr., for services and expenses in attending the General Assembly	35	19	6
Joseph Hopkins, for his services and expenses in apprehending deserters from Col. Kasson's regiment	43	02	0
William Arnold, for expenses of inquiring into the illicit commerce carried on with Block Island	4	19	0
William Coddington, for his services as assistant clerk to the General Assembly	13	06	0
Capt. Elijah Lewis, for billeting fourteen soldiers	12	12	0
" " " " six months's pay in the recruiting service	60	00	0
John Sayles, for apprehending deserters	9	00	0
William Channing, for expenses, and services as clerk of the Assembly	12	14	0
Arnold Stafford, for services in attending the General Assembly	12	18	0
Abraham Greene, " " " " " "	12	12	0
Jonathan Salsbury, for sundry articles delivered to the sheriff for the state house in the county of Kent	11	10	0
Richard Fry, for materials furnished and repairs done on the state house in Kent county	71	16	0

Public Acts Passed at the February Session of the General Assembly.

[The following acts, passed at the February session, will be found in the printed Schedules.]

An Act enabling the town councils of each town in the state to grant licenses for the retailing of strong liquors, &c.

An Act enforcing an act, entitled "An act obliging persons delinquent on military duty, in the late expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island, to pay a fine, or perform a duty in lieu thereof," &c.

An Act for asssessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £90,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of the state.

An Act assessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £60,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of the state.

God save the United States of America.

General Sullivan to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, Providence, January 5th, 1779.

Dear Sir:—Painful as the task is to me, I find myself compelled by a sense of that duty I owe my country, to remonstrate against an act of your Assembly, passed the last session, most erroneously entitled "An act for supplying the army within this state with forage, fuel, teams and horses, in cases of necessity."

This act points out one method of supplying the army with every article; and by implication, undoubtedly prohibits every other mode of supply. The quartermaster is first to find out the wants of the army. Secondly, to apply to the person, who he finds has the articles, and can spare them, without inconvenience. If the person refuses to part with them, or demands an exorbitant price, he is then to apply to Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor, an assistant or a judge of the superior court. The delinquent is to be cited, and the quartermaster must of course attend with proper witnesses.

The party must also attend, with his witnesses; for by the magistrate's being required by the act to examine into the matter, there must of course be a full hearing on both sides; and if after trial, it shall appear that such person is possessed of the articles and things suggested, and can, without very great inconvenience, spare them, the court officer is to give his warrant to the military officer, empowering him to impress the same, for the use of the army. And in one case only, this act may be dispensed with, that is, when the enemy are actually landed, and are making incursions into the country; but this cannot take place, until they are completely and safely landed on the main; not even if their whole army was seen in boats rowing up with the river, should they give the most convincing proofs that their designs were against Providence, citations and hearings must go on, till they have actually landed in the town.

Permit me, sir, to suppose for a moment, that I received certain intelligence in the evening, that the enemy would land at Greenwich, Bristol or Tiverton, the next morning, and found it necessary to remove a considerable part of the army there, to oppose their landing. The magistrate must be appealed to, citations and hearings must go on, until we had obtained a sufficiency of articles to enable us to march; and should we be in want of forage on the route, the same mode must be pursued, the parties heard, and the magistrate must determine upon the evidence, whether the person cited, can spare the forage without great inconvenience. In doing which, he must necessarily inquire into the quantity of forage, and the stock the person cited, has to consume it; for to suppose a citation to be issued, and an examination to be had, without attention to the proper evidence for ascertaining the fact, is absurd and ridiculous.

To this, it may be said, that the magistrate, under such circumstances, would proceed in a more summary way, without that strict attention to the act, which it seems to require.

To this I reply, that an arbitrary procedure in the magistrate, would be equally injurious, with a similar act in an officer of the army; and a violation of the law would be more criminal in him, than in any other person; and that no sensible magistrate would, while the act remains in force, adopt any other method but that which the acts point out; and upon which, I have put the most natural and legal construction.

Innumerable must be the inconveniences arising from the delays and altercations

which will follow the mode pointed out by this act; even the breaking of a wheel, laming a horse, breaking a chain, or even the smallest article must delay a whole army, till a magistrate is found, a process formed, a suit commenced, and a trial had; and even if the judgment of the magistrate should be against the delinquent, a new process is to be issued, empowering the military officer to do what common sense, and the custom of all armies, empowered him to do before.

Would my time, or Your Excellency's patience permit, I could point out infinite mischiefs which must arise from this act, unfortunately calculated to clog, and not to promote the service; should the enemy rouse from their present state of supineness, the inconveniences arising from this act, would appear in the most striking colors, and probably at too late an hour prove that the consequences had not been well considered previous to its being passed.

You will forgive me, sir, when I offer it as my opinion, that an act of such magnitude, which so nearly affected the army, and the posts I have in charge, ought not to have passed, without my being consulted; unless the Assembly supposed me totally incapable of judging what would be most for the good of the service, or the army under my command.

I have been informed that some zealous members of the Assembly are jealous of the army; and that some inhabitants are weak enough to suppose they are under military law.

I should be as much alarmed if that was in fact the case, as any citizen in the state, and should oppose it as much. I am sensible that the Assembly once empowered me to call delinquents, who refused to obey the civil authority, to their duty. I accepted it with reluctance; and in executing the trust reposed in me, challenge the most malicious to say that I, in any one instance, made use of the least degree of severity; and I cannot help expressing my surprise, that an Assembly, who found the reins of civil government too weak to compel individuals to assist in defence of the state, should, by an act risk the safety of the army and country, upon the obedience of those, who had refused to defend their own possessions.

But as I have ever been a zealous advocate of the civil authority, and for the liberties of mankind, I cannot bear a suspicion to the contrary; I have ordered Col. Greene to return Your Excellency the papers containing the names of the delinquents whom I was to call in, and shall, as soon as possible, make report to Your Excellency of what I have done, and must beg leave to decline doing any thing further in the matter; though I have ever felt a happiness in assisting the civil power, I cannot consent to do it, at the expense of my reputation as a citizen, patriot and friend to the liberties of mankind.

I cannot in justice to the public, conclude this letter, without informing Your Excellency that my troops are now without wood, and from any late acts or resolutions, no prospect appears sufficiently satisfactory, that a supply can be had. Should the season prove severe, and the deficiency of that article happen, which I think but too probable, there will be but two methods for me to adopt: one is, to permit, or rather to compel the army to remain on the ground and perish; the other is, to dismiss the men, and leave the post unguarded, till a more favorable season will permit their return.

I have the honor to be, dear sir,

With the highest esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

JNO. SULLIVAN.

His Excellency Governor Greene.

General Sullivan to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Providence, January 16th, 1779.

Dear Sir :—From intelligence which cannot be doubted, the enemy are about to make a descent upon the main. I think their intentions are against the Narragansett shore.

By the embarrassments thrown upon me by the late act of Assembly, I find myself not only incapable of making the necessary preparations for defence, but am, with grief and pain, compelled to inform you that unless the Assembly is immediately called for repealing the act, I shall be compelled either to violate the law or dismiss the troops under my command, and permit them to return home.

As acting in open violation of a law, must throw contempt upon the civil power, and open a door for numerous evils, I cannot think of adopting that measure. I therefore in the most earnest manner, solicit your calling the Assembly immediately. In the mean time, I beg you to order one-half the militia upon the Narragansett shore, to be under arms every night, and posted in such places as Col. Greene shall direct; at the same time, I wish the inhabitants to be ordered to have their stock in readiness to drive off at a moment's warning.

I have the honor to be, with much esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,
JNO. SULLIVAN.

To His Excellency Governor Greene.

The Governor of Rhode Island to General Washington.

State of Rhode Island, &c.
Providence, January 19th, 1778.

Sir :—Since we had the honor of addressing Your Excellency by Mr. Thompson, we received your favor of the 2d of January current, enclosing a proposition of Gen. Varnum's for raising a battalion of negroes.*

We, in our letter of the 15th current, of which we send a duplicate, have fully represented our present circumstances, and the many difficulties we labor under, in respect to our filling up the Continental battalions. In addition thereto, will observe, that we have now in the state's service within the government, two battalions of infantry, and a regiment of artillery who are enlisted to serve until the 16th day of March next; and the General Assembly have ordered two battalions of infantry, and a regiment of artilery, to be raised, to serve until the 16th of March, 1779. So that we have raised and kept in the field, more than the proportion of men assigned us by Congress.

The General Assembly of this state are to convene themselves on the second Monday of February next, when your letters will be laid before them, and their determination respecting the same, will be immediately transmitted to Your Excellency.

I have the honor to be, &c.,
NICHOLAS COOKE.

To Gen. Washington.

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* For the act of the General Assembly, relating to the enlistment, &c., of negroes as soldiers in the army, see page 359, of this volume.

The Governor of Rhode Island to William Ellery.

State of Rhode Island, &c.
Providence, 26th Jannary, 1779.

Sir:—Your favor of the 14th ultimo, and 4th current, have come to hand. We find that the expense of the late intended expedition against Rhode Island, hath been mentioned in Congress, and some doubts have arisen, whether the same ought to be Continental.

We cannot imagine that the heavy expense which hath arisen upon that fruitless attempt, will be charged upon the states only, who furnished the men and the necessary supplies; if that is to be the case, this state is ruined, as the army rendezvoused within it, and were chiefly supplied by us.

The expedition had been long in contemplation before the last attempt was made to carry the same into execution.

We received a letter ftom the honorable president of Congress, dated the 16th of April last, wherein he says: "In the present situation of the British army, it is much to be wished, that an attack could be made upon the enemy in your state, which, whatever success may attend it, would at least cause a diversion of their forces in New Jersey, if it could be speedily undertaken." A resolve passed the Congress on the same day, recommending the General Assembly of this state to attempt it, with the assistance of the states of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut. The state of Massachusetts came into the measure, and we appointed a committee to wait upon the Governor and Assembly of Connecticut, who went to Hartford, and had a conference with their General Assembly; but the situation of affairs in Connecticut, at that time, was such, that they could not afford us sufficient aid; and the project was laid aside.

In the beginning of September last, Col. Trumbull called upon the council of war here, with propositions from Governor Trumbull, for undertaking a descent upon Rhode Island. We readily acceded to the proposal, and immediately wrote to the state of Massachusetts Bay, who concurred in the measure.

Upon the expedition being agreed upon, we sent to General Spencer, and informed him that we would furnish him with every thing in our power, in order that the expedition might be terminated with success. And that nothing might be wanted therein, we furnished the General with upwards of one thousand men more than we engaged or expected; and with all the military and hospital stores, teams, &c., with what money and every thing else he required. The failure cannot be attributed to us, as you may observe by the enclosed extracts from the court of inquiry. The causes we shall not pretend to point out.

The letters which we received from Mr. Marchant, our delegate at Congress, frequently mentioned that an attempt upon Rhode Island, would be attended with good consequences, and we were stimulated to engaged in the undertaking, by the recommendation we had received from Congress, and from motives of promoting the general good of the United States; and had the expedition been attended with success, as there was good reason then to have imagined, it would have been of signal service.

We cannot, we will not entertain a doubt but what Congress will make the same a Continental expense; for if it is not, it will at once prevent any state from exerting itself in the common cause.

Our treasury is so far exhausted, that notwithstanding this little state hath taxed itself self £96,000, the year past, that we been obliged to borrow £10,000, part of the last tax assessed, which was to have been burnt, in order to furnish the officers with recruiting money.

We expect to re-place the sum when we can get money from the Continental treasury. We are making out an acoount against the Continent, and expect to complete it, and send it forward soon.

In the interim, I am, sir, in behalf of the council of war,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To William Ellery, Esq.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.

Providence, February 23d, 1778.

Sir:—I have been favored with Your Excellency's letter of the 3d instant, enclosing a proposal made to you by General Varnum, for recruiting the two Continental battalions raised by this state.

I laid the letter before the General Assembly at their session, on the second Monday in this month; who, considering the pressing necessity of filling up the Continental army, and the peculiarly difficult circumstances of this state, which rendered it in a manner impossible to recruit our battalions in any other way, adopted the measure.

Liberty is given to every effective slave to enter the service during the war; and upon his passing muster, he is absolutely made free, and entitled to all the wages, bounties and encouragements given by Congress to any soldier enlisting into their service. The masters are allowed at the rate of £120, for the most valuable slave; and in proportion to those of less value.

The number of slaves in this state is not great; but it is generally thought that three hundred, and upwards, will be enlisted.

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To Gen. Washington.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Sullivan.

Providence, March 30th, 1778.

Sir:—I am favored with yours of the 26th, informing me of your appointment to the command of the troops in this state. I have the pleasure of informing you, that the appointment is highly satisfactory to us, and we hope will prove equally beneficial to the public, and glorious to you.

The convention at Springfield agreed that the New England governments should furnish four thousand and fifty men, for this army, in the following proportions:

New Hampshire, three hundred; Massachusetts Bay, fifteen hundred; Connecticut, seven hundred and fifty; and Rhode Island, fifteen hundred.

The Congress, by a resolve of the 13th of January, earnestly recommended to those states to furnish and keep up the above mentioned quotas; copies of which have been transmitted to the other states. We have had no troops from New Hampshire since the 1st of January; or from Connecticut, since the middle of this month. The time for which the troops from Massachusetts were to serve, expires to-morrow, when every man of them will leave us. We are now raising two battalions of infantry, of six hundred men each; and one regiment of artillery, of three hundred men, for twelve months; of which upwards of four hundred are recruited. We have also about two hundred and forty militia upon duty in different parts of the state.

The condition of this state hath been very unhappy. Frequently have we been left in the same situation as we shall be in to-morrow. Our militia hath been kept in service until the government is in a manner exhausted; and unless we are better supported by the nelghboring states than formerly, we must be quite ruined by the expense of defending ourselves against the enemy, who are now three thousand strong, upon Rhode Island, besides a great naval force.

We earnestly desire you to make the most pressing instances to the other states, to furnish their respective quotas. I beg leave to assure you of every assistance in the power of the state; and that—

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your Honor's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To General Sullivan.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.

Providence, March 31st, 1778.

Sir:—Your Excellency wrote me on the 14th of March, 1777, that General Howe had applied to you for the discharge of Mr. Hutchinson, who was one of the council and secretary of Dominica, and of Governor Shirley's son, who were then prisoners here; and requested me to discharge them, accordingly.

You were pleased to tell me at the same time, that you did not doubt but Gen. Howe would, on application, release any of our friends in his hands, who were not in the military line. I immediately dismissed the young gentlemen, of which I informed you; and also related the circumstance of their capture, and being brought into this state. As it is probable they have escaped your memory, I beg leave to repeat them.

In April, 1776, John Chace, master of a small trading vessel, belonging to this place, was taken by the Mercury, was kept in irons thirteen weeks, and afterwards entered upon the ship's books as a pressed man, and carried to Great Britain. Capt. William Chace, his father, commander of a private vessel of war, from this port, in the summer following, made prize of a vessel in which the two above named young gentlemen were passengers. With an intention that they should be made use of to redeem his own son, he took them on board his own vessel, and brought them in; and with that view, they were detained, until you requested their dismission.

After acquainting Your Excellency with these circumstances, I begged the favor of you to apply for Capt. John Chace's discharge. Your answer was, that you thought it reasonable, would certainly make the application, and had no doubt of its being successful. Here the affair rested until very lately, when Capt. Chace hearing of hisson's being on board the Venus, in this river, renewed his application to me. Not having recourse to your letter, I thought that the application had been made to Your Excellency by Lord Howe, and wrote to His Lordship upon that supposition, and begged the releasement of Capt. John Chace.

His Lordship returned me this answer: that not being conscious of having solicited in behalf of Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Shirley, he chose to make a further inquiry before he gave a final answer.

I would further inform you, that Capt. John Chace being very ill in consequence of the cruel treatment he received on board the Mercury, was thrown into Chelsea hospital; where, after some time, he partly recovered; and by the advice of a Dr. Linor, who proved his friend, entered on board the Venus, which was then ready to sail upon the American station, in the capacity of a mate, as the only means of avoiding being sent to the East Indies, or at least being put on board one of the guard-ships, from whence his prospect of getting home, would have been very small.

I will trouble Your Excellency no further, than to add that the sufferings of Captain Chace hath made him liable to fits, which render him unfit for the sea; and that a reputable family are now very unhappy upon his account. I beg the favor of Your Excellency to apply to General Howe to interest himself with His Lordship, to release Capt. Chace, and— Am, with great respect, sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To General Washington.

P. S. Capt. Chace hath written to Lord Howe upon the subject. I enclose his letter open, and request it may be forwarded. I have made an apology to His Lordship for the mistake, which I also desire may be forwarded.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Lord Howe.

Providence, March 31st, 1778.

My Lord:—Having addressed a long letter to Your Lordship in behalf of Captain John Chace, I am now to acknowledge the mistake I made. The letter was written entirely from memory; and I thought the application for the release of Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Shirley came from Your Lordship. But upon the receipt of your letter, I had recourse to General Washington's letter to me, and find it was Gen. Howe who solicited for those young gentlemen. I thought this apology due to Your Lordship.

I am Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To Lord Howe.

[NOTE.—The letters of Washington and others, referred to in the preceding correspondence, are not among the archives of the secretary's office.]

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the first Wednesday in May, 1779.

The following named officers, declared elected, were duly engaged:

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Joshua Babcock, Esq.,
Paul Mumford, Esq.,
John Sayles, Esq.,
Jonathan Arnold, Esq.,
James Arnold, Esq.,
Gideon Comstock, Esq.,
Job Randall, Esq.,
Peter Phillips, Esq.,
Robert Brown, Esq.,
Pardon Gray, Esq.

DEPUTIES.

Providence.
Mr. John Brown,
Theodore Foster, Esq.,
Mr. Welcome Arnold,
Mr. David Howell.

Warwick.
Othniel Gorton, Esq.,
Thomas Holden, Esq.,
Adam Comstock, Esq.,
John Waterman, Esq.

Westerly.
Mr. Nathan Barber,
Mr. Paul Clarke.

North Kingstown.
John Northup, Esq.,
Mr. Joshua Davis.

South Kingstown.
Mr. Samuel Babcock,
Rowse J. Helme, Esq.

East Greenwich.
Preserved Pearce, Esq.,
Thomas Tillinghast, Esq.

Smithfield.
Mr. Andrew Waterman,
Mr. Jonathan Comstock.

Scituate.
William West, Esq.,
Mr. Christopher Potter.

Glocester.
Mr. John Smith,
Mr. Daniel Owen.

DEPUTIES.

Charlestown.
Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq.,
Jonathan Hazsard, Esq.

West Greenwich.
Thomas Gorton, Esq.,
Mr. Thomas Joslyn.

Coventry.
Mr. Ephraim Westcoat,
Mr. Joseph Mathewson.

Exeter.
John Chapman, Esq.,
Jeffery Wilcox, Esq.

Tiverton.
Mr. Thomas Corey.

Little Compton.
Mr. Thomas Brownell,
William Richmond, Esq.

Warren.
Mr. Cromel Child.

Cumberland.
Jeremiah Whipple, Esq.,
Mr. John Fisk.

Richmond.
Mr. Simeon Clarke,
Mr. Joseph Tefft.

Cranston.
Christopher Lippitt, Esq.
Dr. Isaac Senter.

Hopkinton.
Mr. Abel Tanner,
Jesse Maxson, Esq.

Johnston.
Mr. John Smith,
Mr. Obadiah Brown.

North Providence.
Esek Hopkins, Esq.
John Jenckes, Esq.

Barrington.
Edward Bosworth, Esq.
Samuel Allen, Esq.

The Hon. Othniel Gorton, Esq., speaker; and William Channing, Esq., clerk.

Henry Ward, Esq., secretary.

William Channing, Esq., attorney general.

Joseph Clarke, Esq., general treasurer.

DELEGATES TO REPRESENT THE STATE IN CONGRESS.

The Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq.,
The Honorable William Ellery, Esq.,
The Honorable Henry Marchant, Esq.,
The Honorable John Collins, Esq.

JUSTICES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

Shearjashub Bourn, Esq., chief; Thomas Wells, second; Paul Mumford, Esq., third; Stephen Potter, Esq., fourth; Gideon Comstock, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR NEWPORT COUNTY.

Benjamin Underwoood, Esq., chief; William Richmond, Esq., second; Walter Cooke, Esq., third; Philip Taylor, Esq., fourth; William Taggart, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR PROVIDENCE COUNTY.

Thomas Greene, Esq., chief; Richard Steere, Esq., second; Rufus Hopkins, Esq., third; Jeremiah Whipple, Esq., fourth; Daniel Mowry, Jr., Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR BRISTOL COUNTY.

Nathaniel Fales, Esq., chief; John Child, Esq., second; Joseph Reynolds, Esq., third; Josiah Humphry, Esq., fourth; Samuel Allen, Esq., fifth.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR KENT COUNTY.

Philip Greene, Esq., chief; James Arnold, Esq., second; Gideon Mumford, Esq., third; Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq., fourth; Preserved Pearce, Esq., fifth.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

John Foster, Esq., judge of the maritime court erected for the trial of prize causes, within and throughout the state.

SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county.
Jabez Champlin, Esq.
Providence county.
William Rhodes, Esq.
Kings county.
Beriah Brown, Esq.
Bristol county.
Richard Smith, Esq.
Kent county.
Richard Fry, Esq.

Mr. Charles Keen, inspector of steel in and throughout the state.

FIELD OFFICERS FOR THE STATE, IN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Amos Atwell, Esq., colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq., colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Nathan Miller, Esq., colonel, of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

Thomas Holden, Esq., colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

John Cooke, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Chad Brown, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Charles Dyer, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Archibald Kasson, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Simon Whipple, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Jesse Maxson, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of first regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Peter Church, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

John Angell, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Thomas Potter, Jr., Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Thomas Gorton, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Richard Fenner, Jr., Esq., major, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Joseph Pendleton, Esq., major, of the first regiment of militia, in the conuty of Kings.

Peleg Heath, Esq., major, of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

Job Pierce, Esq., major, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Asa Kimball, Esq., major, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Jonathan Maxson, Esq., major, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Isaac Johnson, Esq., major, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Officers to Command the several Trained Bands, or Companies of Militia, within the State.

Providence. First company—Abimelech Riggs, captain; Hezekiah Dayton, lieutenant; Joseph Allen, ensign.

Second company—Lewis Peck, captain; Samuel Hamlin, lieutenant; Walker Harding, ensign.

Third company—Charles Keen, captain; Seth Wheaton, lieutenant; Jonathan Yeates, ensign.

Fourth company—Jas. Snow, captain; Zephaniah Brown, lieutenant; Joseph Fuller, ensign.

Warwick. First company—Job Randall, captain; James Arnold, 3d, lieutenant; James Carder, ensign.

Second company—Squire Miller, captain; James Jerauld, lieutenant; John Stafford, ensign.

Third company—Thomas Rice, son of Thomas, captain; Anthony Holden, Jr., lieutenant; Stukely Stafford, ensign.

Westerly. First company—Joshua Pendleton, captain; Samuel Brown, lieutenant; Oliver Lewis, ensign.

Second company—John Gavitt, captain; Stephen Saunders, lieutenant; William Bliven, ensign.

Third company—George Stillman, captain; Peleg Saunders, lieutenant; Asa Maxson, ensign.

Jamestown company—Edward Carr, Jr., captain; John Weeden, son of Daniel Weeden, Jr., lieutenant; Samuel Carr, ensign.

Smithfield. First company—Eber Angell, captain; Robert Bennett, lieutenant; Stephen Day, ensign.

Second company—Ebenezer Trask, captain; Simeon Ballou, lieutenant; Eli Read, ensign.

Third company—Daniel Mowry, 4th, captain; Benjamin Sheldon, lieutenant; John Carpenter, ensign.

Scituate. First company—Jona. Knight, captain; Angell Sweet, lieutenant; David Wight, ensign.

Second company—Simeon Herrendeen, captain; George Dorrance, lieutenant; James Tyler, ensign.

Third company—Coomer Smith, captain; Jabel Angell, lieutenant; Gideon Harris, ensign.

Fifth company—Samuel Wilbour, captain; Thos. Field, lieutenant; William Potter, ensign.

Sixth company—Wm. Howard, captain; Jas. Wells, lieutenant; Samuel Perkins, ensign.

Glocester. First company—Benajah Whipple, captain; Richard Tucker, lieutenant; Peter Lewis, ensign.

Third company—Abraham Windsor, captain; Nathaniel Wade, lieutenant; Zebulon Wade, ensign.

Fourth company—Stephen Windsor, captain; Isaac Ross, lieutenant; Israel Smith, ensign.

West Greenwich. First company—Samuel Hopkins, Jr., captain; Joseph Niles, Jr., lieutenant; Joseph Dolliver, Jr., ensign.

Second company—Benj. Gorton, captain; Caleb Greene, lieutenant; Joseph Weaver, ensign.

Third company—Joseph Draper, captain; Joseph James, lieutenant; Judiah Aylesworth, Jr., ensign.

Coventry. First company—Benedict Colvin, captain; John Colvin, lieutenant; Joseph Brayton, ensign.

Second company—William Roy, captain; William Burlingame, lieutenant; Allen Mathewson, ensign.

Third company—Langford Weaver, captain; Samuel Greene, Jr., lieutenant; John Bucklin, ensign.

Fourth company—Asa Bennett, captain; Joseph Rice, lieutenant; Moses Blanchard, ensign.

Bristol company—William Throop, captain; Joseph Reynolds, lieutenant; Jonathan Diamond, ensign.

Cumberland. First company—Amaziah Weatherhead, captain; Jeremiah Scott, Jr., lieutenant; Ichabod Brown, Jr., ensign.

Second company—Amos Whipple, captain; Wm. Ballou, lieutenant; Jeremiah Inman, ensign.

Cranston. First company—Anthony Potter, captain; Thomas Congdon, lieutenant; George Colvin, ensign.

Second company—Frederick Williams, captain; Nath'l Carpenter, lieutenant; John Harris, ensign.

Third company—William Field, captain; Joseph Potter, lieutenant; Nehemiah Burlingame, ensign.

Hopkinton. First company—Henry Wells, captain; Sylvanus Maxson, lieutenant; Thomas Wells, Jr., ensign.

Second company—George Thurston, Jr., captain; Randall Wells, lieutenant; Joseph Thurston, ensign.

Third company—Azariah Crandall, captain; Lebbeus Cotterell, lieutenant; George Maxson, ensign.

Johnston. First company—Dan'l Sprague, captain; Robert Potter, lieutenant; Isaac Arnold, ensign.

Second company—Emor Olney, captain; Daniel Angell, lieutenant; Laban Waterman, ensign.

Barrington company—Viall Allin, captain; Daniel Kinnicutt, lieutenant; John Short, Jr., ensign.

Richard Fenner, Jr., Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Eleazer Jenckes, Esq., major of the said regiment.

It is voted and resolved, that the resignation of Captain James Parker, of Col. Crary's regiment, in General Cornell's brigade, be accepted.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, recommend the following gentlemen to Congress, for promotion, to fill the vacancies in the First Continental Battalion raised by this state, to wit:

Officers Recommended to Congress for Promotion.

Major Samuel Ward, to be lieutenant colonel; his commission to bear date May 26th, A. D. 1778.

Captain Ebenezer Flagg, to be major; his commission to bear the same date.

Lieut. John Holden, to be captain; his commission to bear date October 10th, A. D. 1777.

Lieut. Edward Slocum, to be captain; his commission to bear date May 26th, A. D. 1778.

Lieut. Joseph Arnold, to be captain-lieutenant; his commision to bear date June 1st, A. D. 1778.

Ensign Charles Pierce, to be lieutenant; his commission to bear the same date.

Ensign John Cooke, to be lieutenant; his commission to bear the same date.

Daniel Dexter, to be lieutenant; his commission to be dated from the present time.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Joseph Brayton be, and

he is hereby, permitted to subscribe the test, ordered to be subscribed by the inhabitants of this state.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of Tiverton preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the seining of fish in a certain pond, known by the name of Puncatest, alias Nomquit Pond, is very detrimental to the inhabitants of the said town in general, and more especially to the poor thereof; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to pass an act prohibiting the seining of fish in the aforesaid pond; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the aforegoing petition be granted; that Pardon Gray, Rowse J. Helme and Jonathan Haszard, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to prepare a bill agreeably to the prayer thereof; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Pardon Gray, James Arnold, Rowse J. Helme and Jonathan Hazsard, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to revise and amend the laws heretofore made, for preventing the fish from being interrupted in their course up the rivers, within this state; and that they make report to this Assembly as soon as possible.

Whereas, the following draught of a commission for the delegates, appointed by the inhabitants of this state, to represent them in Congress, was laid before this Assembly, to wit:

Form of Commission to Delegates in Congress.

By His Excellency William Greene, Esquire, Governor, Captain-General, and Commander-in-Chief, of, and over, the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

To ——— ———, Greeting:

Whereas, by the free vote of the freemen of the said state, on the first Wednesday in May, instant, you, the said ——— ———, was elected a delegate, to represent the said state, for one year, in the general Congress of delegates from the thirteen United States of America, sitting at Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, or wherever the same may sit:

I do, therefore, in the name of the Governor and Company of the said state, hereby authorize, empower, and commissionate you, the said ——— ———, in conjunction with the other delegates that are, or may be, elected delegates of the said state, or separately or alone, in case of the sickness, or necessary absence of the other delegates of the said state, to reperesent the said state in general Congress; and in behalf thereof, to join with the delegates from the other states, or major part of them, in all such measures as shall be thought best for defending, and promoting the welfare of the said United States, agreeably to the instructions given, or that may be given, you by the General Assembly.

This commission, so far as it empowers you to act separately and alone, is to continue good in that respect, until the ratification of the articles of confederation by each and every of ths thirteen United States; upon which event, any two of the said delegates, if no more than three are present, or otherwise the major part of those present, are empowered to execute this commission; which is also to be understood to continue in force until you shall be superseded, and another delegate shall appear to take your place,

Given under my hand, and the seal of the said state, this 8th day of May, A. D. 1779, and in the third year of the Independence of the United States of America.

By His Excellency's command.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, approved; and that commissions be made out under the seal of this state, and signed by His Excellency the Governor, agreeably to the aforementioned form.

Whereas, Edward Perry, Esq., clerk of the superior court of judicature, &c., for the county of Kings, hath represented unto this Assembly, that several sums of money have been lodged in his hands for the redemption of lands, &c., mortgaged to sundry persons, who refuse to receive the same; which moneys are of the dates of May 20th, A. D. 1777, and April 11th, A. D. 1778, emitted by Congress, and ordered out of circulation; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to empower him to lodge the same with the commissioner of the loan office in this state, for exchange,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said Edward Perry be, and he is hereby, empowered to lodge the said moneys of the dates aforesaid, amounting to £297 7*s.* 6*d.*, lawful money, with the said commissioner, to be exchanged, agreeably to a resolution of Congress, for exchanging the same.

That he take a separate receipt for the sum due to each person, specifying therein the name of such person; which receipts, or the moneys received therefor in exchange, being ready to be delivered to the respective owners, shall discharge the said Edward Perry from any suit or expense which may be brought, or may accrue on account thereof; and that for his reasonable expenses in transacting said business, he make an equitable deduction from each sum, in proportion to its quantity.

Whereas, the auditor of accounts presented unto this Assembly the following account and report, to wit:

Report of the Auditor of Accounts to the General Assembly, on William Bradford's accounts relative to certain back rents due to the state.

William Bradford, who was appointed by the General Assembly of the state of Rhode Island, &c., March 12th, A. D. 1778, to receive the back rents due for the farms, taken possession of by said state, in his account current with said state, Dr.

		£ s. d.
1778.		
April 11.	To cash received of Stephen Champlin and Job Watson, at four different times, from the date to April the 10th, A. D. 1779, for the rent of the farm on South Kingstown, called the Point Judith Farm, lately belonging to Samuel Sewell; said rent being due from March 25th, A. D. 1777, to March 25th, A. D. 1778	252 00 0
" "	To cash received of David Austin, for the rent of the farm in in Exeter, that lately belonged to said Sewell, for the same time	27 00 0
May 9.	To cash received of Stephen Boyer, for the rent of the farm North Kingstown, that lately belonged to George Rome, for the same time	97 10 0
" "	To cash received of Charles Dyer, for the rent of the farm in North Kingstown, that lately belonged to Doctor Moffatt, for the same time	30 00 0
Dec. 13.	To cash received of William Tyler, for the rent of the shop that lately belonged to Jonathan Simpson, for the same time.....	6 00 0
1779.		
Mar. 4.	To cash reeeived of Perez Richmond, that he received of Ebenezer Slocum, for the rent of the farm in Tiverton, that lately belonged to Andrew Oliver, of Boston, for the same time....	150 00 0
" "	To cash received of said Richmond, that he received of David Cooke, for the rent of the farm in Little Compton, that lately belonged to Joseph Scott, of Newport, for the same time....	30 00 0
1778.		
Oct. 5.	To cash received of Thomas Gray, for the rent of the farm in	

		£ s. d.
1778.		
	Bristol, that lately belonged to Thomas Palmer, for the same time	54 00 0
Oct. 24.	To cash received of William Pearce, for the rent of the farm in Bristol, that lately belonged to John Borland, of Boston, for the same time	70 00 0
1779.		
Mar. 15.	To cash received of Cromel Child and Sylvester Child, Esqs., for the rent of the farm in Bristol, lately belonging to William Vassal, of Boston, for the same time	63 18 0
" "	To cash received of Cromel Child and Sylvester Child, Esqs., for rent of the farm in Bristol, that lately belonged to James Carpenter, of Newport, for the same time	37 16 0
1778.		
Oct. 29.	To cash received of Stephen Potter, for the rent of land in South Kingstown, that lately belonged to John Borland, of Boston, for the same time	13 06 0
Dec. 13.	To cash received of Rowland Robinson, for the rent of land in South Kingstown, that lately belonged to said Borland, due from March 25, A. D. 1776, to March 25, 1777	10 13 0
		£842 03 0

		Cr.
1778.	Supra	
May 19.	By cash paid Joseph Clarke, as general treasurer, per receipt	182 08 0
Sept. 6.	" " " " " " "	116 02 0
Nov. 5.	" " " " " " "	157 03 0
1779.		
Mar. 20.	" " " " " " "	326 09 0
" "	" " " " " " "	36 00 0
" "	" " " " " " "	17 09 0
" "	" " " Perez Richmond, Esq., by order of the Geneeral Assembly, per receipt	7 01 0
		£842 03 0

Errors excepted,

By WILLIAM BRADFORD.

N. B. Mr. James Hill settled the rent of the house and shop in Providence, lately belonging to Gilbert Deblois, Boston, with the council of war, up to March the 25th, A. D. 1778; and the rent of the farm, in Tiverton, that was leased to William Durfee, from March the 25th, A. D. 1777, to the 25th of March, A. D. 1778, for $78, that lately belonged to Robert and Samuel Hubbart, of England, remains unpaid; said Durfee being dead, and his estate unsettled.

Providence, May 8, 1779.

Examined the above account, and compared the vouchers with the charges, and find them agree,, except the rents of William Tyler, Perez Richmond, Thomas Gray, Wm. Pearce and Cromel Child and Sylvester Child; who have no leases among the papers; and the amount of the account, being £842 3*s.*, appears, by the general treasurer's receipts, to be all fully paid into the treasury.

NATHANIEL MUMFORD, Auditor.

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and the same is hereby, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that William Bradford, Pardon Gray and Enoch Haszard, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, empowered to settle with all those persons who have hired sequestered estates of this state, from the 25th of March, A. D. 1778, to the 25th of March, A. D. 1779, upon such terms as they shall judge adequate to the tenor of the several leases.

That they receive of those who do not choose to pay their rents in produce, an equivalent in money; and that the said William Bradford be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed, to bring in actions against those who do not settle immediately with the said committee, for the recovery of the rents due, with damages for the non-performance of their contracts.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Stephen Hopkins and Henry Marchant, Esqs., two of the delegates appointed to represent this state in Congress, be, and they are hereby empowered to draw £600, each, out of the general treasury; and that they account for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Marchant, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to assist the attorney general in the prosecution of certain persons charged with supplying the enemy with provisions, &c., to be tried at the superior court of judicature, &c., to be holden at East Greenwich on the 24th day of May instant; and that he delay his intended journey to Congress until after the sitting of said court.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee heretofore appointed to inquire into the illicit trade carried on with the enemy, by the way of Block Island, be, and they are hereby, directed to give Gen. Gates all the information in their power respecting Stephen Franklin, Jr., now under recognizance for his appearance before the next superior court of judicature, court of assize, and general jail delivery, to be holden in the county of Kings; in order that General Gates

may, if he shall think proper, proceed against the said Stephen Franklin as a spy; and that immediately on his being apprehended by order of Gen. Gates, he be discharged from his recognizance.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and is hereby, recommended to the Hon. Major General Gates to permit Mrs. Alice Gould to go in the first flag of truce to Rhode Island, and that she be not permitted to return to the main until the said island shall be in the possession of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Beriah Brown, Jonathan Haszard and George Pierce, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to receive the claims of the creditors of the estate of one Samuel Knowles, who hath gone over to the enemy; and that they examine and adjust the same, and make report thereof to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Welcome Arnold, for the county of Providence; Col. Richard Fry, for the counties of Kings and Kent; and Richard Smith, Esq., for the counties of Newport and Bristol, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to receive the rents of the estates leased by this state, within the said counties respectively, from the 25th day of March, A. D. 1779, to the 25th day of March, A. D. 1780, agreeably to the leases of said estates.

It is voted and resolved, that the town council of the town of Westerly, be, and they are hereby, directed to take into their possession a quantity of corn or other grain, purchased by Stephen Franklin, Jr., of New Shoreham, which was left in the hands of Mr. Phinehas Clarke, of said Westerly, and dispose of the same to such of the inhabitants of this state as may be in want thereof, on such terms as they shall think reasonable; and that they pay the money arising from the sale thereof, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the alarm companies in this state convene themselves within the several towns to which they belong, on the third Wednesday of April annually, and elect their officers to command them.

That the clerk of each company return a list of the offi-

cers so chosen, to the General Assembly; and if approved of by them, that they be commissioned by the Governor of this state, for the time being; any law, custom or usage to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is further voted and resolved, that if any of the said alarm companies have not yet elected their officers for the year ensuing, such companies convene for that purpose on the day of the annual election of the town officers of the town to which they respectively belong, elect their officers, and report the same to this Assembly for approbation; and if approved of, that they be commissioned by the Governor accordingly.

The return of the officers chosen to command the Pawtuxet Rangers, for the year ensuing, was read in Council, and is as follows, to wit:

Benjamin Arnold, captain; William P. Greene, first lieutenant; Abner Field, second lieutenant; Israel Arnold, ensign.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that it be earnestly recommended to all those inhabitants of this state, possessed of more grain than is necessary for the consumption of their families until the next grain harvest, to sell the overplus at reasonable prices, to such of the inhabitants of this state as stand in need of that necessary article.

And all persons possessed of more grain than is necessary for the consumption of their respective families, as aforesaid, who shall not comply with this recommendation, are hereby informed, that their refusal will occasion this Assembly to pass such act for the distribution of grain, as the necessity of the inhabitants may require.

It is voted and resolved, that Rowse J. Helme, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to assist the attorney general in the prosecution of certain persons charged with supplying the enemy with provisions, &c., at the superior

court of judicature, &c., to be holden on the 24th day of May inst.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to take an estimate of the ratable property within this state, proceed on the said business immediately; and that Thos. Holden, Esq., one of the said committee, notify the other members of this resolution, and of the time and place of their first meeting.

It is voted and resolved, that the regiments of militia in the county of Kings, be formed into a brigade.

That the regiments of militia in the county of Kent be be formed into a brigade.

That the second regiment in the county of Newport, and the regiment of militia in the county of Bristol, be also formed into a brigade; and that this resolve continue in force, until a new arrangement shall take place by order of this Assembly.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

Officers of the Militia Chosen.

James Mitchel Varnum, Esq., major general, of the militia of this state.

William West, Esq., brigadier general, of the brigade in the county of Providence.

Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq., brigadier general, of the brigade in the county of Kings.

Nathan Miller, Esq., brigadier general, of the brigade in the counties of Newport and Bristol.

Charles Dyer, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings.

Jeffery Wilcox, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the same regiment.

Thomas Clarke, Esq., major, of the same regiment.

Thomas Potter, Esq., colonel, of the third regiment of militia, in the same county.

Jonathan Maxson, Esq., lieutenant colonel, of the same regiment.

Stephen Babcock, Esq., major, of the same regiment.

Officers to Command several of the Trained Bands, or Companies of Militia, in this State.

North Kingstown. First company—Samuel Dyer, captain; William Davis, lieutenant; Stukely Hill, ensign.

Second company—James Albro, captain; James Eldred, lieutenant; Lawrence Pierce, ensign.

Third company—John Brown, captain; Joshua Vaughan, lieutenant; Beriah Waite, ensign.

South Kingstown. Second company—Barber Peckham, captain; Jeremiah Knowles, lieutenant; Samuel Potter, son of Robert, ensign.

Exeter. First company—Jonothan Bates, captain; Dan'l Tillinghast, lieutenant; John Congdon, Jr., ensign.

Henry Ward, Esq., is chosen intendant of trade for the port of Providence.

William Cooke, Esq., is chosen sheriff of the county of Newport.

Members of the Council of War Chosen.

His Excellency William Greene, Esq., the Honorable Jabez Bowen, Esq., Pardon Gray, Esq., Esek Hopkins, Esq., John Jenckes, Esq., John Northup, Esq., Joshua Babcock, Esq., Jonathan J. Haszard, Esq., Preserved Pearce, Esq. and Paul Mumford, Esq., are chosen members to constitute a council of war, agreeably to an act appointing the said council.

Nathaniel Mumford, Esq., is chosen sub-clothier for this state, in consequence of a recommendation of Congress for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that the resignation of Archi-

bald Crary, Esq., as colonel, of the first battalion of infantry, in General Cornell's brigade, be, and the same is hereby, accepted.

Whereas, Israel Angell, Esq., colonel of the second battalion of Continental troops, raised by this state, hath preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that on the 23d of August, A. D. 1777, an act was passed, entitling the officers of the Continental battalions of this state, to receive the amount of one-quarter part of their wages in provisions, at the stipulated price, which he hath never received; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to permit him to draw what is now due to him, agreeably to said act; or to appoint a committee to settle with him; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war be, and they are hereby, empowered to settle with the said Israel Angell, for one-quarter part of the wages due to him, in provisions, and to make him a reasonable allowance for the same, in money.

It is voted and resolved, that Adam Comstock, Rowse J. Helme and Theodore Foster, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to prepare a bill for raising the fines and penalties incurred for the breach of the laws of this state; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to receive of Col. Christopher Greene, £22 6*s*., lawful money, in bills of public credit, heretofore emitted by this state, and taken out of circulation; which bills were received by the said Christopher Greene, of this state, to raise recruits for his regiment.

It is voted and resolved, that Gideon Comstock, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a member of the council of war, in addition to those already appointed to constitute the said council.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to lodge in the Continental loan

office in this state, the bills of public credit emitted by Congress, of the dates of May 20th, A. D. 1777, and April the 11th, A. D. 1778, now in this state's treasury, to be exchanged, agreeably to a resolution of Congress; excepting such part of the said bills as are sufficient to discharge the Continental tax, for the payment of which they were collected.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., Continental agent-clothier, be, and he is hereby, appointed to purchase clothing for the brigade ordered to be raised by this state.

Whereas, Messrs. John Jenckes, Paul Allen and John Brown, presented unto this Assembly a statement of the account of John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier for this state, together with their report thereon, as follows, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, to examine and settle the accounts of John Reynolds, the Agent-Clothier.

We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee, by the Honorable General Assembly, to examine and settle the accounts of John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier to this state, for the supplying of the Continental and state troops, and having gone through the business, by carefully comparing all the charges and credits with the several vouchers, do find and report a balance due to the said John Reynolds, of £1,113 14*s.*, lawful money, exclusive of any commissions for doing the business, which we leave to be mutually agreed on between the General Assembly and the said John Reynolds.

We also find, by said accounts, that there is a balance due unto the state from the officers of the army, for clothing received from the said John Reynolds, of £1,683 11*s.* 4*d.*, lawful money, as by a list of their respective names, with the sums annexed.

That the clothing is charged them at about one-third what it cost; and that there is now in the store belonging unto this state, the several articles of clothing agreeably to the account herewith.

JOHN JENCKES,
PAUL ALLEN,
JOHN BROWN.

And due consideration being had upon the premises aforesaid,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid report be, and the same is hereby, accepted; and that the sum of £2,162 14*s.* 1*d.*, lawful money, being the amount of the commissions charged in the said account; and the sum of £1,113 14*s.*,

lawful money, being the balance due unto the said John Reynolds, amounting in the whole to £3,276 8*s.* 1*d.*, lawful money, be paid unto the said John Reynolds, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Reynolds immediately collect the moneys due from the officers for the clothing furnished them by this state; and that he pay the same into the general treasury.

Whereas, Colonel Thomas Holden presented a general bounty abstract of one of this state's battalions of militia, commanded by him, in the service of the United States of America, from the 6th of August, A. D. 1778, to the 27th of the same month; both days inclusive, as followeth, viz.:

Bounty Abstract of Col. Thomas Holden's Battalion.

	£	s.	d.
First company—Capt. Pearce's bounty abstract amounts to	289	06	8
Second company—Capt. Wall's " " "	349	01	4
Third company—Capt. Arnold's " " "	184	02	0
Fourth company—Capt. Rice's " " "	337	06	8
Fifth company—Capt. Gorton's " " "	251	06	0
Sixth company—Capt. Colvin's " " "	270	13	4
Seventh company—Capt. Bennett's " " "	262	19	4
Eighth company—Capt. Hall's " " "	255	05	4
Whole amount in lawful money	£2,200	00	8

THOMAS HOLDEN, Colonel.

Which being read, was referred to the auditor of accounts; who thereupon reported, that he had examined the particular company abstracts of bounty contained in the above regimental abstract, and compared the same with the abstracts for wages, lodged in the paymaster general's office, and found them agree; and that the sum of £2,200 8*d.*, was due thereon; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Thomas Holden be, and he is hereby, empowered to receive the said sum of £2,200 8*d.*, out of the general treasury, for the purpose of discharging the same.

Whereas, Colonel Thomas Holden presented a general

abstract of one of this state's battalions of militia, commanded by him, in the service of the United States, from July 24th, to August 1st, A. D. 1778, both days inclusive, as followeth, viz.:

Col. Holden's Abstract.

	£	s.	d.
Capt. Pearce's abstract amounts to	60	05	4
Capt. Rhodes' " " "	71	17	4
Capt. Randall's " " "	47	04	0
Capt. Johnston's " " "	48	19	4
Capt. Thos. Rice's " " "	70	16	0
Capt. Hall's " " "	43	04	0
Capt. Millard's " " "	60	18	8
Total amount in lawful money	£403	04	8

THOMAS HOLDEN, Colonel.

Which being read, was referred to the auditor of accounts; who thereupon reported, that he had examined the particular company abstracts contained in the above regimental abstract, and found them all to agree; and that the sum of £403 4*s.* 8*d.*, was due thereon; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Thomas Holden be, and he is hereby, empowered to receive the said sum of £403 4*s.* 8*d.*, out of the general treasury, for the purpose of discharging the same.

Whereas, Colonel Archibald Kasson exhibited a general bounty abstract of one of this state's battalions of militia, commanded by him, in the service of the United States, from July 24th, A. D. 1778, to the 30th of the same month, both days, inclusive, as followeth, viz.:

Col. Archibald Kasson's Bounty Abstract.

	£	s.	d.
Capt. Joseph Hopkins, Jr., his bounty abstract amounts to	29	00	0
Capt. Samuel Wall's " " " "	82	02	8
Capt. Joseph Hopkins's " " " "	17	14	8
Capt. Benedict Colvin's " " " "	50	08	0
Capt. Benjamin Gorton's " " " "	41	01	4
Capt. William Roy's " " " "	41	01	4

	£	s.	d.
Capt. Joseph Draper, his bounty abstract amounts to	24	05	4
Capt. Langford Weaver's " " " " "	58	16	0
Capt. Asaph Bennett's " " " " "	42	18	8
	£387	08	0

Which being read,—

It is voted and resolved, that upon the above abstract being compared with the abstract in the paymaster general's office, by the auditor of accounts, and certified to him to be agreeably therewith, the said Archibald Kasson be empowered to draw the above sum of £387 8*s.*, lawful money, or any less sum which shall be certified to be due out of the general treasury, for the purpose aforesaid; and thereupon the said auditor reported that he examined the particular abstract therein charged, and compared the same with the abstract of wages lodged in the paymaster's office, and found (except 17*s.* 4*d.*, short, charged in Joseph Hopkins's, Jr., abstract,) the same right; which short charge being added, makes the amount thereof £388 5*s.* 4*d.*, due thereon.

Whereas, Col. Archibald Kasson exhibited a general bounty abstract of one of this state's battalions of militia, commanded by him, in the service of the United States, in the second division, in the expedition upon Rhode Island, under the command of General Sullivan, from the 21st of August, A. D. 1778, to the 31st of the same month, both days included, as followeth, viz.:

Col. Kasson's Abstract.

	£	s.	d.
Capt. Rhodes' abstract amounts to	140	18	8
Cayt. Hopkins's " " "	178	14	0
Capt. Randall's " " "	67	18	0
Capt. Millard's " " "	155	08	0
Capt. Johnston's " " "	139	10	8
Capt. Draper's " " "	119	18	0
Capt. Roy's " " "	126	18	8
Capt. Weaver's " " "	122	14	8
	£1,052	00	8
Deduct for an overcharge in Capt. Roy's abstract		5	4
	£1,051	15	4

Which being read,—

It is voted and resolved, that upon the above abstract being compared with the abstract in the paymaster general's office, by the auditor of accounts, and certified by him to be agreeably therewith, the said Archibald Kasson be empowered to receive the above sum of £1,052 8*d.*, or any less sum which shall be certified to be due, out of the general treasury, to discharge the same; and thereupon the auditor reported, that he had examined the particular abstracts therein charged, and compared the same with the abstracts for wages lodged in the paymaster's office, and found them agree in numbers of men, and time; and the sum of £1,051 15*s.* 4*d.*, due thereon.

It is voted and resolved, that the attorney general be, and he is hereby, directed to draught a bill, declaring the rights of this state to vessels which may be shipwrecked upon the shores thereof.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
William Channing, for expenses, and services as clerk of the Assembly ...	26	16	0
William Compton, for services in attending the General Assembly.....	7	04	0
Daniel Branch, " " " " " "	17	07	0
Samuel Johnston, for his services in attending upon the General Assembly	7	04	0

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on the second Monday in June, 1779.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Samuel Congdon, Jabez Champlin, John Gardner, Robert Champlin, Joseph Congdon, Stephen Congdon, Jonas Clarke, Benjamin Clarke, John Allen, William Spencer and Moses Kinyon, citizens and inhabitants of this state, have been taken by the enemy from the main, and are now prisoners with them on the island of Rhode Island; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and it is hereby, recommended to Major General Gates, to effect an exchange of the persons aforenamed, and now prisoners with the enemy, as aforesaid, as soon as may be; and that he permit Mr. George Champlin to proceed in a flag of truce, under his direction, to Newport, to negotiate said exchange.

It is voted and resolved, that the act of this Assembly, entitled "An act for the ease of prisoners for debt, allowing them the liberty of the yard, upon their giving bond," be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

That this resolve take place immediately from this day.

That the several sheriffs within this state, be forthwith furnished with a copy hereof; and that the secretary transmit the same, accordingly.

Whereas, Mr. Esau Thayer, of Providence, in the county of Providence, leather-dresser, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that, at the last general election in this state, his duty, as one of the matrosses in Col.

Tillinghast's Independent Company of Artillery, obliged him to assist in firing the cannon.

That in announcing this happy occasion, he met with the greatest of misfortunes, in losing both his hands, by an accidental discharge of the piece, while ramming down the cartridge; and that his necessitous circumstances oblige him to lay his unhappy case before this Assembly; and thereupon the said Esau Thayer prayed for relief; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that £300, lawful money, be allowed to the above named Esau Thayer, for his support and maintenance for one year from the 5th day of May last past, and to satisfy and pay the expenses which have accrued by the wounds received in the above service; and that the said Esau Thayer be empowered to draw the same out of the general treasury.

Whereas, a number of guns, bayonets, cartouch-boxes and camp equipage, belonging to the towns or inhabitants of this state, have been impressed or returned into the public stores, or lost in the public service,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the colonels of the several regiments of militia in this state, make inquiry into the number of guns, bayonets, cartouch-boxes and camp equipage, so impressed or lost in the public service, as aforesaid, since the 1st day of August, A. D. 1777; and to what towns or persons the same belong.

That they also make inquiry after all arms and accoutrements received frem the public, by any persons belonging to their respective regiments, which are now in their possession.

That they make report to this Assembly at the next session; and that copies of this vote be sent to the colonels of the said regiments.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, that Abraham Tourtellot, a captain in the battalion commanded by Col. Archibald Crary, hath received a considera-

ble sum of money for recruiting, and hath not accounted for the same; and that he hath not joined the said battalion,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Providence, or his deputy, be, and he is hereby, directed to apprehend the said Abraham Tourtellot, and him have before His Honor the Deputy Governor, at Providence, on Tuesday next, that he may be examined respecting the premises; and that His Honor the Deputy Governor take such further measures with the said Tourtellot, as he shall think necessary.

It is voted and resolved, that the resolution of this Assembly, made and passed at the session held in February, A. D. 1769, approving an estimate of the ratable property within this state, and directing the same to be a rule of taxation in future, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

Whereas, the Most Honorable the Continental Congress, by a resolve of November 22d, A. D. 1777, recommended to this state to pay into the Continental loan office, in this state, the sum of $100,000, as its proportion of the Continental tax for the year 1778; and whereas, this Assembly, at the sessions held in February and June, A. D. 1778, did make provision for the payment of $50,000, thereof; and no provision hath been made for the payment of the remainder,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to negotiate with, and deliver to, Joseph Clarke, Esq., keeper of the said office in this state, a warrant drawn by His Excellency the president of Congress, on the said keeper, in favor of this state, bearing date June 26, A. D. 1778, for the sum of $50,000, which sum will complete the payment of this state's proportion of the said Continental tax, for the year 1778.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £60,000, lawful money, be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, to be

levied, collected and paid into the general treasury, on or before the 1st day of August next.

That the poll tax be sixpence upon every £1,000.

That it be apportioned agreeably to the apportionment of the last tax assessed upon the inhabitants of this state.

That a clause be therein inserted, directing the assessors to assess real and personal estates at their full value, agreebly to the act passed at the session held in October last, for taking a new estimate; and that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford draft a bill accordingly.

Whereas, Henry Sherburne, Esq., colonel in the Continental army, by his petition, represented unto this Assembly, that a number of his officers and men, together with himself, belong to the state of Rhode Island, and are considered as troops thereof; nevertheless he is unable to obtain those allowances which other troops have received; and thereupon besought that himself, and those whom he represents, might be included in the several acts in favor of the other Continental troops from this state; and that they receive an equivalent for back allowances; whereupon—

It is voted and resolved, that said petition be received.

That John Jenckes, Esq., Rufus Hopkins, Esq., and Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, be a committee to ascertain the value of the allowances heretofore received by other troops raised by this state, and to which the officers and men under the command of Col. Sherburne, may be entitled, agreeably to the prayer of the said petition.

Whereas, John Jenckes, Esq., Rufus Hopkins, Esq., and Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, who were appointed a committee, to examine what allowances are due, for subsistence, to Col. Henry Sherburne, his officers and men, belonging to this state, now in actual service in the regiment under his command, presented unto this Assembly an account of the sums due for the said allowances, and to whom; and the following report thereon, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to examine into the Allowances, &c., due to Col. Sherburne.

Agreeably to our appointment, we have examined into the allowances due to the aforegoing officers and soldiers in Col. Henry Sherburne's regiment, and find the sums set against each of their respective names, amounting in the whole to £3,250 5*s.* 6*d.*, due to them, up to the 3d day of Jauuary, 1779.

JOHN JENCKES,
RUFUS HOPKINS,
NATHANIEL MUMFORD.

South Kingstown, June 16, 1779-

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid report be, and the same is hereby, accepted; and that the said sum of £3,250 5*s.* 6*d.*, lawful money, be paid to the said Henry Sherburne, out of the general treasury, to discharge the said allowances; deducting therefrom the sum of £1,890 13*s.*, due from the said Henry Sherburne to the state, to balance an account this day settled with him.

Whereas, the committee appointed to ascertain the allowances due unto Col. Sherburne, his officers and men, belonging to this state, from the time of their engaging in the service, until the 3d day of January last, have made a report thereof, which report hath been accepted; and the sum reported to be due hath been ordered to said officers and men out of the general treasury,—

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Henry Sherburne, his said officers and men, mentioned in the report of the said committee, be furnished in camp with the same refreshments, and receive the same allowances, as are received by the officers and men in the Continental regiments raised by this state, from the said 3d day of January last past, until the present time; and that they receive in future the same allowances as the said regiments in the Continental service shall receive.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £225,000, lawful money, be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, for the payment of the Continental tax, apportioned to this state, for the year 1779, by a resolution of Congress passed

the 21st day of May last; the one-half part thereof, to be collected and paid into the general treasury of this state, on or before the 20th day of October next; and the other half-part to be collected, and paid into the general treasury aforesaid, on or before the 20th day of December next.

That said tax be apportioned agreeably to the apportionment of the tax last assessed upon this state.

That the poll-tax be sixpence upon every £1,000; and that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford be, and he is hereby, directed to prepare a bill, agreeably to the former tax bills, with the additions ordered to be made in assessing the state tax passed the present session.

Whereas, Thomas Cranston, of North Kingstown, Esq., by his petition, represented unto this Assembly, that he is now confined in said North Kingstown, to the limits of one mile, and hath been so for some time past; and besought this Assembly that they would be pleased to grant him the indulgence of passing and re-passing into any town within this state, he behaving himself as a friend to the country; and the same being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Thomas Cranston be, and he is hereby, permitted for the future to pass and re-pass to and from any town or place within this state, which is not in the possession of the enemy, he behaving himself as a good friend to the American cause.

It is voted and resolved, that William Richmond, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed one of the committee to take a general estimate of the ratable property within this state, agreeably to an act of this Assembly, in the room of Philip Taylor, Esq., who declines serving.

That said committee enter upon said business in fifteen days after the rising of this Assembly, and complete the same as soon as may be.

That if Daniel Mowry, Jr., Esq., one of the said committee, shall decline serving, or not attend at the time above mentioned, Arthur Fenner, Jr., Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed one of said committee, in his room.

And that if the said Daniel Mowry should decline serving, and said Arthur Fenner should not accept his appointment, the council of war make choice of some other person, for the county of Providence, to serve in said committee.

It is further voted and resolved, that the resolution of this Assembly, ascertaining the allowance to be made said committee, for their services in taking said estimate, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

And it is further voted and resolved, that each of said committee be, and they are hereby, empowered to draw £3 12*s.*, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for each and every day they are employed in said business.

That said committee, after completing the same, lay their accounts before this Assembly, of their time and expenses in taking said estimate; and that thereupon this Assembly will make a reasonable allowance to each of the said committee, for their said services.

It is voted and resolved, that Othniel Gorton, Esq., Adam Comstock, Esq., Messrs. Thos. Rumreil, Christopher Greene, and Mathew Manchester, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to make inquiry into the conduct of any person or persons, resident on or near the shores of this state, suspected of being inimical to the United States, and of giving intelligence to the enemy; and if it shall appear unto the said committee, or a major part of them, that the public safety requires his, her or their removal, from his, her or their present places of residence, the said committee, or the major part of them, are hereby empowered, by a warrant under their hands, directed to the sheriff of the county within which such person or persons reside, to cause him, her or them, to be removed to such place or places within this state, and within such limits, as said committee shall prescribe; and the said sheriff is hereby directed, upon receipt of such warrant, to remove such person or persons, accordingly.

It is further voted and resolved, that if any person or persons, who shall be removed as aforesaid, shall exceed the

limits within which he, she, or they, shall be confined by order of said committee, the sheriff within whose district such offender shall be, shall forthwith apprehend him or her, and commit such offender to the jail within said district, there to be confined during the pleasure of this Assembly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that said committee be, and they are hereby, fully empowered and authorized to issue warrants, directed to the several sheriffs or their deputies within this state, to apprehend, and bring before said committee for examination, such suspected person or persons as shall therein be named; which warrants, the several sheriffs are hereby authorized and required to execute.

Whereas, Lieutenant Col. Samuel Ward gave information unto this Assembly, that one David Briggs had, about ten days since absconded, and gone off to the enemy.

That said David was in the service of one Jabez Reynolds, of North Kingstown, who had supplied him previous to his going, with hard money.

That the said Jabez's general character is unfriendly; and that there is great reason to suspect that he has harbored and concealed persons who have been inimical to the states.

Whereupon, the said Jabez Reynolds being had before this Assembly, and being duly examined touching the premises,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Jabez Reynolds, with his family, be forthwith removed by the sheriff of the county of Kings from the town of North Kingstown, into such part of either of the towns of Scituate, Coventry or Glocester, as are distant from the salt water six miles.

That the said Jabez be confined within the limits of the town to which he shall be removed as aforesaid, during the pleasure of this Assembly; and if he shall exceed the bounds thereof, without leave therefor first had and obtained, the sheriff within whose district he may be found, is hereby directed immediately to apprehend his body,

and him closely to confine in the jail within the said district, there to remain until he be discharged by this Assembly.

And it is further resolved, that the said Jabez Reynolds be, and remain, in the custody of the sheriff, until he be removed agreeably to this resolution.

Whereas, at the annual election of the United Company of the Train of Artillery for the town of Providence, holden agreeably to their charter, on the 26th day of April, 1779, the said company made choice of—

Daniel Tillinghast, Esq., colonel; Levi Hall, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Robert Taylor, Esq., major; John Carpenter, captain; and Joseph Smith, lieutenant.

Which being read in the General Council of this state, they do approve of the same.

Whereas, Col. Israel Angell represented unto this Assembly, that certain articles at stated prices, to the amount of one-sixteenth part of the officers, and one-quarter part of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers' wages, are due unto his regiment,—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the consideration of the same be referred to the council of war, that they may take proper measures for furnishing said articles due to the said regiment, as soon as may be; and that they adjust and settle the account of the subsistence money due unto said regiment, to this time.

It is further voted and resolved, that the council of war settle and adjust the account of Thomas Greene, Esq., as state's commissary, for furnishing articles in camp.

It is voted and resolved, that His Excellency William Greene, Esq., Governor of this state, be allowed £300 lawful money; the Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq., Deputy Governor, £225, lawful money; and Jos. Clarke, Esq., general treasurer of this state, £1,250, lawful money, including their respective salaries, for their extraordinary services in their said offices, for the year 1778, to be paid them out of the general treasury.

Whereas, the independent company, of Kingston Reds, in South Kingstown, made a return that they had, agreeably to their charter, made choice of—

John Waite, Esq., captain; Nathan Taylor, Esq., first lieutenant; Gardner Tefft, Esq., second lieutenant; and Mr. Allen James, ensign.

Which being read, His Excellency the Governor doth approve thereof.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session in February last, ordered a brigade of fifteen hundred men, officers included, to be raised for the defence of this state in particular, and the United States in general, to continue in service one year; and whereas, the officers of the late Col. Crary's battalion have many of them resigned their commissions, with the Colonel himself,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the two battalions of infantry in said brigade be joined into one battalion, to be commanded by Col. Topham; and that said battalion consist of nine hundred and thirty men, officers included; to be divided into nine companies, to be officered as in said act is directed.

And whereas, it is of the greatest importance that said fifteen hundred men be speedily brought into the field; and whereas, the enemy have given the highest proofs that they intend prosecuting a partizan, predatory and desultory war,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that a corps of light infantry be raised, as a part of the said fifteen hundred men, consisting of four companies, of fifty-four men each, rank and file. Three sergeants, one drummer and fifer each; to be commanded and led by four captains, four lieutenants, four ensigns; and also one adjutant, one quartermaster and paymaster, from the line of officers; and one surgeon, to be appointed.

And whereas, the Honorable General Gates, the Conti-

nental commander-in-chief in this department, hath recommended unto this Assembly the constituting a light corps of two hundred men, and the giving the command thereof to Col. William Barton,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, in consideration of said recommendation, and a due regard to Col. Barton's qualifications and experience in the Petit Guerre, that he be, and he is hereby, appointed to the command of said light infantry corps.

And whereas, for rendering the said corps as useful as possible, it is expedient that the officers be peculiarly calculated for this kind of war, placing entire confidence in each other,—

It is further voted and resolved, that Col. Barton nominate from time to time such candidates as he shall judge proper; who, upon being approved by this General Assembly, or the council of war, shall be appointed and commissioned accordingly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that said corps be entitled to the same benefits and allowances as others of the said fifteen hundred men.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the command of said corps be placed immediately under the commander-in-chief of this department, for the time being, to be disposed of as he shall deem fit.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the form of enlistment be the same as is prescribed in said act, passed in February last, *mutatis mutandis.*

And it is further voted and resolved, that no officer or non-commissioned officer, recruiting for said corps, shall be entitled to any allowance for moneys paid to any recruit, unless such recruit shall be previously mustered by the colonel of said corps, assisted by a surgeon, and sworn as in said act is provided.

Whereas, many of the inhabitants of the town of Providence preferred a petition unto this Assembly, setting forth,

that they have had their grain, for a number of years past, ground at the mill owned by Mr. Samuel Thurber, Jr., in said Providence, to general satisfaction.

That they wish to have it ground there; but by the late act of Assembly lessening the toll, the said Thurber cannot, at this season of the year, keep the mill going, by reason that the toll will not pay a man for attending it, whereby they are put to great inconvenience and expense in sending their grain to other mills to be ground; and thereupon besought this Assembly to take the matter into consideration; that the said Samuel Thurber's mill might be considered as one of the mills in said act excepted; and he may be authorized to grind for the usual toll; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, to wit:

Sundry Civil and Military Officers Chosen.

Enoch Hazard, Esq., ninth assistant (in the room of Robert Brown, Esq., who declines), engaged.

JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FOR KINGS COUNTY.

Samuel Babcock, Esq., chief; John Northup, Esq., second; Carder Hazard, Esq., third; Joseph Hoxsie, Esq., fourth; Immanuel Case, Esq., fifth.

Returns of the officers chosen to command the alarm companies in the several towns were read and approved, and are as follows, to wit:

Officers chosen to command Alarm Companies in the Several Towns.

Warwick—Robert Rhodes, captain; William Waterman,

first lieutenant; Stephen Greene, second lieutenant; Philip Wightman, ensign.

Hopkinton—Thomas Wells, 2d, captain; Elias Coon, first lieutenant; John Pierce, second lieutenant; John Brown, ensign.

North Providence—Thomas Olney, captain; Charles Olney, Jr., first lieutenant; Ichabod Jenckes, second lieutenant; John Field, ensign.

Cranston—John Burton, captain; William Burton, first lieutenant; Philip Burlingame, second lieutenant; Nathan Carpenter, ensign.

Cumberland—Reuben Ballou, captain; Levi Tower, lieutenant; Absalom Ballou, ensign.

Little Compton—Perez Richmond, captain; Geo. Wood, first lieutenant; Gideon Simmons, second lieutenant.

North Kingstown—Joshua Peirce, captain; Caleb Hill, first lieutenant; Sylvester Pierce, second lieutenant; Chas. Dyer, (son of Edward), ensign.

Providence—David Howell, captain; Samuel Black, first lieutenant; Nathan Warner, second lieutenant; Esek Eddy, ensign.

Smithfield—Job Mowry, captain; Nehemiah Smith, first lieutenant; George Streeter, second lieutenant; Abraham Winsor, ensign.

Exeter—Walter Clarke, captain; David Herrington, first lieutenant; Benjamin Gardner, ensign.

East Greenwich—Ebenzer Spencer, captain.

Thomas Holden, Esq., brigadier general, of the brigade of militia in the county of Kent.

Nathaniel Church, Esq., lieutenant colonel, commandant of the second regiment of militia in the county of Newport.

Lemuel Bailey, Esq., major of said regiment.

Jonathan Bates, Esq., major, of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings, in the room of Thos. Clarke, who resigns.

Jeffery Wilcox, Esq., requested to resign his office of

lieutenant colonel, of the second regiment of militia in the county of Kings; and his resignation is accepted accordingly.

The following officers were appointed to command the militia companies, to wit:

Officers of the Militia Chosen.

Tiverton. First company—Isaac Cooke, captain; Philip Corey, lieutenant; Philip Manchester, ensign.

Second company—Benjamin Borden, captain; Daniel Deval, lieutenant; Benjamin Howland, ensign.

Third company—Richard Durfee, captain; Humphrey Shearman, lieutenant; Thomas Durfee, ensign.

Johnston—Second company—Daniel Angell, captain, in the room of Emor Olney, who declines; Laban Waterman, lieutenant; Ezekiel Olney, ensign.

Providence. First company—Daniel Stilwell, captain, in the room of Abimelech Riggs, who declines.

Fourth company—Joseph Fuller, captain; Benj. Gladding, lieutenant; Joseph Snow, ensign.

North Providence company—Esek Jenckes, lieutenant; Benjamin Coman, ensign.

Little Compton. First company—Cornelius Briggs, captain; William Southworth, lieutenant; Benjamin Coe, ensign.

Second company—John Davis, captain; Ichabod Wood, lieutenant; John Woodman, 2d, ensign.

Cumberland. Second company—Squire Fisk, lieutenant, in the room of William Ballou, who declines; Ariah Cook, ensign, in the room of Jeremiah Inman, who declines.

Cranston. Third company—Joseph Potter, captain, in the room of William Field, who declines; Nehemiah Burlingame, lieutenant; Moses Lippitt, ensign.

Scituate. First company—John Potter, ensign, in the room of David White, who declines.

Fourth company—Isaac Hopkins, captain; Isaac Pain, lieutenant; Philip Walker, ensign.

East Greenwich. First company—Micah Whitmarsh, captain; David Andrews, lieutenant; Samuel Brown, ensign.

Second company—Allen Johnston, captain; Mumford Davis, lieutenant; Jeremiah Place, ensign.

Hopkinton. Second company—Randall Wells, captain; Joseph Thurston, lieutenant; Joseph Maxson, ensign.

Charlestown. First company—John Park, captain; Christopher Babcock, Jr., lieutenant; John Taylor, ensign.

Second company—Beriah Lewis, captain; Peleg Cross, lieutenant; Thomas Greene, Jr., ensign.

Exeter. First company—Daniel Tillinghast, captain, in the room of Jonathan Bates, Jr., advanced; John Congdon, Jr., lieutenant; George Bates, ensign.

Third company—George Wilcox, captain; Benj. Greene, lieutenant; Asa Gates, ensign.

South Kingstown. First company—Timothy Lock, Jr., captain; Daniel Tefft, lieutenant; William Steadman, ensign.

Second company—Paris Gardner, captain, in the room of Barber Peckham, who declines; Stephen Smith, ensign.

Richmond. First company—Richard Bailey, Jr., captain; John Woodmansie, lieutenant; Joshua Webb, ensign.

Second company—John Clarke, captain; Jeremiah Tefft, lieutenant; Pardon Tefft, ensign.

North Kingstown. Second company—Lawrence Pearce, captain, in the room of James Albro, who declines; Henry Northup, son of Joseph, lieutenant; Bowen Card, ensign.

Benjamin Tillinghast, Esq., third justice of the inferior court of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, in the county of Kent, in the room of Gideon Mumford, Esq., who resigned; Preserved Pearce, Esq., fourth, and Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., fifth justices of the same court.

Whereas, a return was made unto the General Council of

this state, by the company of North Providence Rangers, that they had, agreeably to their charter, made choice of—

Hezekiah Smith, captain; Arnold Benchley, lieutenant; and Joseph Benchley, ensign, of said company, for the year ensuing.

Which being duly considered, the Council do approve of the choice aforesaid.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of North Kingstown, living upon Boston Neck, in said town, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, setting forth, that one Stephen Northup, formerly of said town, had given and granted a sufficient drift-way through his lands, from the North Ferry into the Country Road; and that the same hath been since shut up, and great difficulty and inconvenience thereby had arisen unto the petitioners and others; and prayed that a committee might be appointed by this Assembly for examing into the subject-matter of the said petition, and that said drift-way may be speedily opened; whereupon, the subject-matter of said petition being duly heard and considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the aforegoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

That Peter Phillips, and John Northup, Esqs., and Mr. Ezekiel Gardner, Jr., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to examine and lay out said drift-way, at the expense of the petitioners.

That said committee give notice to the persons through whose land said drift-way may be laid out, of their appointment, and hear them upon the subject-matter thereof; and that they make report of their doings to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

Whereas, Messrs. Ray Sands, Edward Hull, and Nathan Gardner, Jr., preferred a petition unto this Assembly, setting forth, that they have farms upon Block Island, and a considerable time hath elapsed since they have visited the same; and prayed that they may have permission to go upon said Block Island, to receive their rents, and to inspect what situation their respective estates are in upon said is-

land; which aforesaid petition being taken into consideration,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be referred to Major General Gates, and that he grant permission to the petitioners to go upon Block Island, if he shall approve the same, under such directions and restrictions as he shall prescribe.

It is voted and resolved, that the second and third days of the next session of this Assembly be, and the same are hereby, appointed for hearing private petitions; and that the parties therein concerned, may have notice thereof, the secretary is hereby directed to advertise the same, and the time to which this Assembly shall adjourn, in the next Providence newspapers.

It is voted and resolved, that Chandler Burlingame be, and he is hereby, recommended to Congress for a lieutenancy in the regiment under the command of Col. Christopher Greene; and that his appointment be considered as having taken place on the 11th instant.

Whereas, Mr. Caleb Westcot, of South Kingstown, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, setting forth that he hath divers sums of money due unto him from the inhabitants of Block Island, and prayed liberty that he might be permitted to go upon said island, in order to settle and collect the same; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the consideration of the same be referred to Major General Gates; and that he grant permission unto the said Caleb Westcot to go upon Block Island, if he shall approve the same, under such directions and restrictions as he shall prescribe.

An Act assessing and apportioning a tax of £225,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state, for the payment of the Continental tax apportioned to this state for the year 1779, by a resolution of Congress passed the 21st day of May last.

Protest against the act of the General Assembly, for levying a Tax of £225,000 upon the State.

The subscribers, representatives for the towns of North Kingstown and South Kingstown, beg leave to dissent from the vote of this house for proportioning the sum of £225,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state.

1st. Because liberty and property are the essential matters that constitute a freeman; that as long as an individual enjoys those essential matters, he considers himself as a member of society worthy to contend for them, and risk his all in their preservation; that whenever an individual, or a community at large, are deprived thereof, they are no longer to be considered as freemen, but the abject slaves of despotism.

2d. Because government was instituted for the good of mankind in general; that they might be protected in their lives, liberty and property; and that evil doers might receive the reward of their works.

In order to support government, taxation is necessary; he that receives protection, ought to contribute to the support of his protectors; that taxation, or contribution for the support of government, ought to be free and voluntary, and equal upon every part which receives protection, agreeably to the abilities of the individuals or towns at large, who receive benefit thereby; whenever that ceases, uneasiness and discontent prevail; and sooner or later, that government which imposes unequal assessments upon the inhabitants, must be embroiled in trouble and difficulty.

The liberty, independence and sovereignty of this state, are what the subscribers contend for; they will, and do, most cheerfully give their voices for assessing upon their constituents any sums of money that they can raise, for that important and most desirable object, so that all and the several parts of the state do equally contribute according to their abilities.

The tax as now proportioned, is, in their opinion, partially and unjustly assessed; the towns which they have the honor to represent, are frontier towns, exposed to the ravages and depredations of a cruel, savage enemy, who have since the last tax, made an incursion into said towns of North Kingstown and South Kingstown, burned, plundered and rifled their houses, stripped the women and children of their necessary clothing, led many of their good and valuable inhabitants into captivity; and carried off a very considerable part of their most valuable stock of oxen, cows, sheep, &c., which hath greatly diminished their ratable property; and they are not now in a condition to contribute in so large a manner as heretofore, they having for a series of years been burthened more in proportion than their sister towns.

Under these circumstances, though with great reluctance, the subscribers are compelled, in order to do justice to themselves and their constituents, thus publicly and solemnly to protest against assessing the tax in manner as aforesaid.

JOHN NORTHUP, SAMUEL BABCOCK,
JOSHUA DAVIS, R. J. HELME.

It is voted and resolved, that the collectors of the tax of £60,000, lawful money, ordered at the present session to be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, be empowered to receive in payment of said tax, from the persons upon whom the same is assessed, good tow cloth, fit for shirts, of

a yard wide, well whitened, at a price not exceeding twenty-seven shillings per yard; and in that proportion for good, well whitened tow cloth of other widths; and good brown thread, at a price not exceeding one shilling and two-pence per knot.

That said collectors procure, and return the same to the agent-clothier, at Providence, as soon as may be.

That two-and-an-half per cent. be allowed them for transacting the business; and that the receipts of the clothier, for the cloth and thread delivered to him as aforesaid, be received by the general treasurer in discharge for such a part of said tax as the same shall amount to, agreeably to this resolution.

Whereas, the bounty and subsistence money allowed by the act of this Assembly, passed in February last, for raising a brigade of fifteen hundred men, to the non-commisioned officers and privates enlisting into the said brigade, have been found an inadequate encouragement to men to enlist into the said brigade,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that each non-commissioned officer and private who shall enlist into the said brigade, or the light corps ordered to be raised at the present session, shall be entitled to receive, as a bounty, £100, lawful money, and the same wages, clothing and subsistence money, as are allowed in and by said act.

It is further voted and resolved, that, for the payment of the said bounties, the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to issue four thousand promissory notes, for £10, each, payable on or before the 1st day of August next, with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and sign the same in behalf of this state.

That two thousand of the said notes be delivered to Col. William Barton; two sixth-parts thereof, to Col. John Topham; and the remaining sixth part to Col. Robert Elliott; and that the same be issued under the direction of His Honor the Deputy Governor, as the recruiting service shall require.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said notes be received by the collectors of taxes, in payment of the tax of £60,000, ordered to be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, at the present session; and that the general treasurer also receive the said notes in payment of the said tax, or otherwise discharge the same with the money collected and paid into the general treasury upon the said assessment; any thing in the act assessing the said tax, to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that Brigadier General Stanton, Jonathan Hazard, John Northup and Preserved Pearce, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to wait upon the Honorable General Gates, and request him to remove the troops, commanded by Col. Topham, from their present station, to the western shore of this state; provided his arrangement will admit of relieving said troops; as this Assembly are fully persuaded such a measure would greatly facilitate the recruiting service.

It is voted and resolved, that the address of Congress to the inhabitants of the United States, be printed in handbills, and sent to the several ministers of the gospel in the respective towns within this state; and the said ministers are hereby requested to read the same to their respective congregations, the first Sabbath after their receiving the same, immediately after divine service; also to the respective town clerks in the several towns within this state, who are hereby directed to communicate the same unto the inhabitants of their respective towns, in the most expeditious manner; and the secretary is hereby directed to cause the said address to be printed, and dispersed as above ordered, as soon as may be.

At the motion and request of Mr. Job Watson, to whom the farm at Point Judith, in the possession of this state, hath been leased for the year 1779,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Job Watson be discharged from said lease.

That he retain possession of so much of the land as he hath the last spring sowed or planted with grain.

That upon condition he take the necessary care of the same, and harvest and thresh the barley, and husk out and secure the Indian corn, and pay a just proportion of the taxes assessed on said farm, the present year, and deliver, as soon as fit for a market, one-half part of all the produce of said land which he shall improve, to such committee as the Assembly shall appoint, the said Job Watson shall be entitled to receive the other half-part thereof, in compensation of his services and expenses in tending the aforesaid grain.

It is further voted and resolved, that Mr. John Brown be, and he is hereby, appointed to lease the remainder of said estate, upon the best terms he can, and make report thereof to the council of war; excepting one hundred acres thereof, heretofore improved by Mr. Caleb Gardner, who is to improve the same, and to pay one-tenth part of the taxes of the whole farm, and account with the state for the profits of the same.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£	s.	d.
Haszard Champlin, for three hundred and twenty-four pair of yarn stockings, by him delivered into the agent-clothier's store, for the use of the troops in this state	408	04	9½
Thomas Potter, for expenses of the meeting at his house, of a committee appointed by the General Assembly, to inquire into an illicit trade said to be carried on with the enemy, by way of Block Island	287	07	0
Preserved Pearce, for victuals, &c., for Capt. Samuel Sweet, in the service of the state	3	06	0
Caleb Westcot, for boarding up the court house windows in Kings county	3	00	0
Gideon Comstock, for his expenses to and from South Kingstown, as one of the committee for inquiring into an illicit trade	35	15	6
David Douglas, for attending upon the committee who were inquiring into an illicit trade	31	04	0
David Potter, one of the overseers of the poor in the town of Richmond, for boarding, nursing and attending Sarah Jones, a pauper, belonging to Newport	99	15	5
William Channing, for pleading and procuring a libel in behalf of the state, against the ship Minerva, and sloop Miss North; and for his expenses in attending the General Assembly	101	08	0
Nathaniel Helme, for his attendance upon the General Assembly	18	00	0
Paris Gardner, for his attendance upon the General Assembly, &c.	24	00	0

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the fourth Monday in August, 1779.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, the council of the Narragansett tribe of Indians preferred a petition unto this Assembly, setting forth, that some of the said tribe, from ignorance, and others from obstinacy, have leased out their lands to the white inhabitants for long terms.

That many more of the said tribe are about leasing out their lands for a great number of years, and moving off to other tribes; and those principally, who possess the best farms.

That the said tribe have agreed to maintain their own own poor, without any expense to the town they live in.

That those who rent their farms, as aforesaid, have the whole rents paid down, and thereby alienate their lands for a length of time, without the tribe's receiving any benefit therefrom; and that if a stop be not speedily put to their proceedings, the tribe will be unable to support their poor, and many of their old people, past labor, must unavoidably suffer; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to take the same into consideration, and order and direct that no person of the said tribe should, for the future, have liberty of leasing out his or her lands, without the approbation or consent of the said Indian council, in conjunction with two substantial, honest white people, to be appointed by this Assembly, to assist, advise, and join the said Indian council, in leasing those lands that may be thought advisable to

lease, for the advantage of the owner, and tribe in general; and the premises being duly considered,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is hereby enacted, that from and after the rising of this Assembly, no Indian, of the said Narragansett tribe, shall be empowered and authorized to make any lease or leases of his or her real estate or estates, for any term of time whatsoever, excepting that the approbation of the Indian council of said tribe, in conjunction with a committee of two persons appointed by this Assembly, be first had and obtained; and that the present committee be the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., and Joseph Hoxsie, Esq.; which approbation so obtained, shall be signified in writing, upon the back of the lease, and signed by the said council, or the major part of them; and also by the said committee, or one of them.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no lease or leases, made or executed otherwise than by this act provided, shall be good or valid to any intent or purpose, whatsover.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the committee above mentioned, be fully authorized and empowered to make full examination into the circumstances of all estates now held, or pretended to be held, by any person whatever, under lease or leases from any of the said tribe, and report thereon, as soon as may be.

Whereas, Mrs. Mary Brightman (whose husband hath joined the enemy, upon Rhode Island), preferred a petition to this Assembly, requesting that she, and her three small children, may be permitted to go upon Rhode Island, and to carry thereon her household furniture; and that, until it can be known whether the enemy will receive them, she may have the benefit of a milk cow, which was seized upon the desertion of her said husband, for the subsistence of herself and children, who must otherwise greatly suffer; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended unto the Honorable Major General Gates, to permit the petitioner to go with her children to her husband, at Newport; and that in the mean time she have the use of the cow lately belonging to her husband, which the sheriff of the county of Newport is hereby directed to deliver her immediately.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, the following return of the choice of officers for the alarm company of the town of North Kingstown was read, to wit:

Joshua Pearce, captain; Caleb Hill, first lieutenant; Sylvester Pearce, second lieutenant; Charles Dyer (son of Edward), ensign.

Who are approved of.

Benjamin Ballou, is chosen captain, of the first company of militia of the town of Smithfield.

Whereas, William Cook, Esq., sheriff of the county of Newport, made a report to this Assembly, that agreeably to a resolution of the council of war, passed the 11th day of August current, he had taken into his custody two cows, and one hog, lately belonging to Thomas Brightman, of Tiverton, who had deserted to the enemy upon Rhode Island; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said sheriff forthwith dispose of, at public sale, the fallow cow, and hog, lately belonging to the said Brightman; and that he pay the money arising from the sale thereof, into the general treasury.

Whereas, the time for the town of Bristol's paying in their proportion of the tax of £60,000, ordered at the last session to be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state hath expired, and no warrant hath been received by the collector of the said town for collecting the same,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to issue his warrant to the collector of taxes in the town of Bristol, to collect that town's proportion of the said tax; and that said warrant

be made returnable within ten days from the rising of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that William Bradford, Paul Mumford, Adam Comstock, Christopher Lippitt, James M. Varnum, Esqs., and the attorney general, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draft a bill for confiscating the estates of persons who have joined the enemy, or otherwise manifested themselves to be inimical to the United States; and that they make report to the present session of this Assembly.

Whereas, it is represented unto this Assembly, that Joshua Randall, of Stonington, in the state of Connecticut, as factor for one John Rice, calling himself of Hartford, in the state of Connecticut, aforesaid, purchased of Carder Hazard, of South Kingstown, Esq., a negro woman, and three children, to reside with the said John Rice, at Hartford; but that since it appeareth, that the said woman and children were purchased to be carried to the state of North Carolina; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kings forthwith take the said negro woman and her children into his possession; and that they remain with the said sheriff until the further orders of this Assembly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that Rowse J. Helme, David Howell and Welcome Arnold, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draft a bill for preventing slaves from being purchased and carried from this state, without the consent of such slaves; and that they make report to this Assembly.

Upon the petition of divers of the inhabitants of Providence, to remove Mr. Joseph Lawrence, the barrack-master, from his place, for misconduct; the same being duly inquired into,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Joseph Lawrence be, and he is hereby, dismissed from his post as barrack-master.

It is voted and resolved, that Richard Fry, Esq., sheriff of the county of Kent, sell at public vendue, on Tuesday next, to the highest bidder, the wool and cheese delivered him by Mr. Silas Gardner, for rent due for the farm leased him by the state; and the said sheriff is directed not to receive any further part of the rents due for the farms leased by the state, until the articles of produce, which are to be received for the same, are merchantable.

Upon application of Messrs. Thomas Townsend, Joseph Warren and James Potter, Jr., inhabitants of Newport, who were taken in a fishing boat,—

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the Hon. Major General Gates, to grant permission to the said Thos. Townsend, Jos. Warren and Jas. Potter, Jr., to return to their respective families in Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the Honorable Major General Gates, to procure Christopher Allen, Robert Carter and Jonathan Simmon, who were lately taken in wood-vessels; and John Eldred, and Pain Hammond, lately taken upon Jamestown, who are all held here as prisoners of war, to be exchanged for some of our unfortunate people now prisoners with the enemy.

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the Honorable Major General Gates, to permit Mrs. Lucy Sands to go upon New Shoreham, to her family, at such time and in such way as he shall think proper.

It is voted and resolved, that Esek Hopkins and John Jenckes, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed to purchase the articles of refreshments allowed, and which will, on the 1st day of September next, be due to the commissioned, non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the Continental service, agreeably to the resolutions of this Assembly; and that they deliver the same to the commanding officers of the respective regiments, to be by them distributed to the said officers and privates, agreeably to the said resolutions.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said committee

adjust the account of refreshments furnished by Mr. Thomas Greene; and that they make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Enoch Hazard, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to inspect into the conduct of the tenants of the farms, leased by the state, in the county of Kings; and if the said tenants have committed, or shall commit, any waste on the same, the said Enoch Hazard is empowered to commence actions for such waste, to the first court proper to try the same.

Whereas, Mr. Uriah Stone preferred a petition unto this Assembly, setting forth that he being in the service of this state, on board the galley Spitfire, commanded by Captain Isaac Tyler, on the 22d day of February, A. D. 1777, had the misfortune to lose his left arm above the elbow, by a cannon ball from the enemy, in an engagment.

That he suffered great pain and misery from the amputation, and was a long time utterly helpless; and that he hath a wife and three children, and from his mutilated condition is unable to maintain himself and family; and thereupon prayed that such allowances may be made him from the state, as will tend to the supporting himself and family, and making him some compensation for his misfortune; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same is hereby, referred to the committee heretofore appointed, to ascertain allowances to be made to persons wounded in the Continental service, agreeably to a resolution of Congress; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the enlistments of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the Continental service, now in possession of the officers of the said regiments, and of the committees in the several towns, who enlisted the said non-commissioned officers and soldiers, be forthwith delivered to the auditor of accounts.

That the said auditor deliver to the said officers copies of

the said enlistments; and that the commanding officers of the regiments, and town clerks of the several towns, be furnished with a copy hereof, to be communicated by them to the officers and committees who enlisted the said non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

Whereas, from the distressed situation of this state, a punctual compliance with the several acts of this Assembly, for the better subsistence of the Continental troops, has become impracticable; and whereas, great difficulties have arisen in supplying them with articles in camp, at stated prices; and as furnishing them with certain specific sums of money for their better subsistence, will prevent great trouble and expense,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that in lieu of all refreshments, subsistence money, and other allowances which have heretofore been made them, they shall receive in future the following sums of money per month, to wit:

Pay of the Militia Officers and Privates per Month.

A colonel,	$91 33
A lieutenant colonel,	72 00
A major,	59 33
A captain,	48 33
A lieutenant,	42 33
An ensign,	34 33
A surgeon,	52 00
A surgeon's mate,	35 00
A sergeant,	27 33
A corporal,	26 16
A drummer,	26 16
A Fifer,	26 16
Each private,	25 00

It is voted and resolved, that the subsistence money of such non-commissioned officers and soldiers as have families, be paid to the town councils of the towns to which they re-

spectively belong, for the better maintenance of the families of the said non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

Provided always, that such non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who shall be recommended by some one field officer of his regiment for that purpose, shall, if he choose, receive the subsistence money himself.

It is further voted and resolved, that this act shall not extend to any non-commissioned officer or soldier, who hath been heretofore a slave, and became free in consequence of his enlisting into the service.

It is further voted and resolved, that one-and-an-half per cent. be allowed and paid to the town councils out of the general treasury, for transacting the aforementioned business.

It is further voted and resolved, that all acts heretofore made, for the better subsistence of said troops, be, and they are hereby, repealed; and that a copy of this act be transmitted to the several town clerks in this state.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £20,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, to purchase clothing for the officers and soldiers in the twelve months' brigade raised by this state; and that he account for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the commissioned officers in the twelve months' brigade, raised by this state, be allowed the same clothing, and upon the same terms as it was received by the officers in the state service the last year; and that the clothier purchase and deliver the same, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that Esek Hopkins and John Jenckes, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £20,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for the purpose of purchasing articles of refreshments, for the Continental troops belonging to this state, agreeably to a resolution of this Assembly, and the report of Col. Henry Sherburne, and Lieutenant Colonel Jeremiah Olney;

and that the said committee be empowered to receive of the tenants of the farms leased by this state, as much cheese as will be wanted for the supply of the said troops, agreeably to said resolution.

It is voted and resolved, that James Arnold and Benjamin Arnold, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to ascertain the value of the fence made use of for building a battery on the land of Captain Remington, at Pawtuxet, in December, A. D. 1776; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Theodore Foster, Welcome Arnold and David Howell, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to point out the best way and manner by which an inquiry shall be made into the conduct of the staff officers; and that they report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Mrs. Eunice Hazard, now with the enemy, and her family, be permitted to go into any town within the county of Providence.

It is voted and resolved, that it be earnestly recommended to the inhabitants of this state, to open subscriptions in their several towns for raising their respective proportions, ageeably to last tax, of the loan of $20,000,000, as recommended by a late resolve of Congress.

That the deputies of the several towns make report of what is done herein, to the next session of this Assembly; and that this resolve be published in both the Providence newspapers.

Whereas, many evil minded persons, not regarding the ties of their allegiance to the United States in general, and this state in particular; but influenced by the sordid principles of avarice, continue illicitly to correspond with and supply the inhabitants of New Shoreham, in the county of Newport, with provisions, and other articles, to the great detriment and distress of the virtuous inhabitants of this state.

And whereas, the said town of New Shoreham hath been

for a long time, and still is, within the power and jurisdiction of the enemies of the United States, whereby they obtain, in consequence of the evil practices aforesaid, supplies for themselves, and intelligence from time to time of the situation of our troops, posts and shores; by which means they are enabled to make frequent incursions, and thereby commit devastations upon, and rob the innocent inhabitants of their property, and deprive them of their subsistence; wherefore,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that from and after the rising of this Assembly, if any person or persons whosover, being inhabitants of, or residents in, this state, shall, by him, her or themselves, directly or indirectly, go or send upon the said island of New Shoreham, or any other place in the possession of the enemy, in this state, or upon Long Island; or supply the inhabitants or inhabitant thereof, with any article or articles of provision or clothing, or any other article whatsoever, he, she, or they, so offending, upon being convicted thereof, upon indictment duly presented and found before the superior court of judicature, court of assize, and general jail delivery, shall forfeit all his, her or their goods and chattels, and the rents and profits of his, her or their real estates during life, to and for the use of this state; and shall also, when the confiscation of their estates shall not be deemed a sufficient punishment, be placed in one of the Continental battalions raised in this state, or on board one of the Continental vessels of war, to serve during the present contest with Great Britain, provided the criminal be a male, and sufficiently qualified to be a soldier or sailor; but otherwise, should the offender be a female, or not fit for a soldier or sailor, he or she shall receive such corporal punishment as the nature of the crime may require; or shall be banished, at the discretion of the court.

Provided nevertheless, that nothing in this act shall extend, or be construed to extend, to such persons as shall act by virtue of special permits of this Assembly, or the com-

mander-in-chief in the military department; they conforming themselves strictly to the tenor thereof.

And be it further enacted, that the act heretofore made, inflicting a penalty of £30, for the offences before mentioned, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

And it is resolved, that this act be published three weeks successively in the Providence papers.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

Bills Ordered to be Paid.

	£ s. d.
Capt. Jeremiah Clarke, commander of the armed Pigot galley, for the subsistence of the officers and men on board the said galley	591 12 18
Nathan Bardin, for the bounty due to a sergeant's guard, doing duty upon the shores of Warren	206 14 00
Capt. Allen Johnson, for a pay abstract of his company of militia, stationed at East Greenwich	42 00 00
Stephen Jenckes, for plank provided for, and labor done upon, Pawtucket Bridge	54 01 00
Capt. William Potter, for one-quarter of his wages, to be paid in articles at a stated price	13 14 00
Col. Christopher Greene, for a general subsistence abstract for his regiment	5,284 05 04
Capt. George Simmons, for bounty abstracts of his company of militia, for doing duty in Tiverton	22 00 00
Capt. George Simmons, for wood, &c., supplied the troops in Tiverton	44 13 04
Col. Archibald Crary, for subsistence due his regiment for abstract	2,752 04 00
Lieut. Thomas Waterman, for moneys paid recruits	30 10 00
Jabez Bowen, Gideon Comstock and Stephen Potter, for their services as a committee to inquire into an illicit trade	150 00 00
Rowse J. Helme, for his time, expenses and horse-hire in attending upon the committee to inquire into an illicit trade	93 02 00
Daniel Mowry, Jr., for his expenses in attending upon the committee for inquiring into an illicit trade	46 04 00
Edw. Thurber, Jr., allowance for the loss of one of his hands when firing the artillery at the late election	150 00 00
Jabez Bowen, for expenses in attending the late convention at East Greenwich	48 00 00
Walter Channing, for his expenses in attending upon the General Assembly, as clerk	54 12 00
Christopher Lippitt, for his time and expenses in settling abstracts	45 15 00
Peter Phillips, for his time and trouble in receiving and delivering stock, beloging to the state	9 12 00
William Compton, for attendance on the General Assembly	18 00 00
Samuel Johnson, " " " "	6 00 00
Daniel Branch, " " " "	19 10 00

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the second Monday in September, 1779.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, StephenHazard, Esq., of South Kingstown, in the county of Kings, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that by an order of the committee appointed to remove from the shores such persons as they should judge dangerous to be left near the same, he hath been separated from his family, and resides as a prisoner in the town of Cumberland; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him a trial at the present session, and to liberate him from his confinement, that he may procure his evidences; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Stephen Hazard be permitted to come to East Greenwich.

That he be heard upon the said petition on next Friday morning; and that he remain in the care of the sheriff of the county of Kent, until the further orders of this Assembly.

Whereas, Mr. Samuel Hazard, of South Kingstown, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that by an order of the committee appointed to remove from the shores such persons as they should judge dangerous to be left near the same, he was sent to the town of Hopkinton, in this state, where he now remains; and thereupon he prayed this Assembly to grant him a trial at the present session, and to release him from his confinement, that he may procure his evidences; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Samuel Hazard be permitted to come to East Greenwich.

That he be heard upon the said petition on next Friday; and that he remain in the care of the sheriff of the county of Kent, until the further orders of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the report of the committee appointed to remove disaffected and dangerous persons from the shores of this state, into the interior parts thereof, be, and the same is hereby, accepted; and the conduct of the said committee approved.

It is voted and resolved, that Welcome Arnold, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed for the counties of Newport, Providence and Bristol; and Richard Fry, Esq., for the counties of Kings and Kent, to receive the small arms, bayonets and cartridge-boxes, belonging to this state, unfit for service, and to have the same repaired by the Continental armorers within this state.

That in case the said Continental armorers cannot repair the said arms, the said committee employ other persons to do the said business.

That the colonels of the said regiments of militia collect the said small arms and accoutrements, and deliver them to the said Welcome Arnold, or Richard Fry; and that the late committee of safety be also required to collect all the arms, blankets and accoutrements, that they have delivered out to the militia, since the present war, which have not been accounted for, and deliver the same to the aforesaid committee.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit:

Sundry Civil and Military Officers Chosen.

William Davis, Esq., sheriff, of the county of Newport.

Robert Brown, Esq., fifth justice, of the inferior court of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, within and for the county of Kings.

Stephen Pierce, lieutenant; and Rouse Pierce, ensign, of the second company of militia in the town of Little Compton, in the places of Ichabod Wood and John Woodman, who declined.

William Bliven, captain; and Joseph Peckham, lieutenant, of the second company of militia in the town of Westerly, in the places of John Gavitt and Stephen Saunders, who declined.

Walter White, ensign, of the same company.

It is voted and resolved, that the negro woman and her children, lately purchased by Joshua Randall, of Stonington, in the state of Connecticut, of Carder Hazard, Esq., who were taken into the possession of the sheriff of the county of Kings, by an order of this Assembly, passed at the last session, be sold to such person or persons, within this state, as shall be approved of by the said Carder Hazard.

That the said Joshua Randall pay all the expenses that have accrued, or may accrue, upon the said negroes, in consequence of the said order; and that the said sheriff keep possession of the said negroes, until they shall be sold as aforesaid.

Whereas, the dwelling house, lately belonging to Naphtali Hart and Company, lying in Tiverton, which was taken possession of by this state, as belonging to persons inimical to the rights of America, is going to decay very fast, and unless some repairs are made, will be rendered entirely useless; and as the same is leased out by this state unto Mr. Abner Durfee,—

It is voted and resolved, that Pardon Gray, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to inspect into the present condition of the said dwelling house, and to give directions to the said Abner Durfee to make such repairs upon the said house as are absolutely necessary, to prevent it from going to destruction; and that the said Abner Durfee cause repairs to be made, and lay his account of the expense thereof, before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Adam Comstock, Rowse J. Helme, Benjamin Bourne and David Howell, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draught a bill for confiscating the estates of persons inimical to the liberty and independence of the United States of America; and that they make report to this Assembly at the present session.

It is voted and resolved, that the resolution of this Assembly, regulating the price of tow-cloth, to be purchased for the use of the troops raised by this state, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-clothier, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £16,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, to purchase clothing for the use of the troops raised by this state; and that he account for the same.

Whereas, Christopher Robinson, Esq., of South Kingstown, in the county of Kings, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that, by an order of the committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of suspected persons, he is removed from his family and estate; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant him such relief as to justice and equity shall appertain; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Christopher Robinson be permitted to come to East Greenwich.

That he be heard on the said petition; and that he remain in the care of the sheriff of the county of Kent, until the further orders of this Assembly.

Whereas, William Barton, Esq., a colonel in the Continental army, in the service of this state, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that ever since the present contest with Great Britain, he has devoted his time entirely to the service of his country.

That this Assembly hath granted unto the officers and soldiers of this state subsistence money, from time to time.

That in the aforesaid grants, he hath not been consid-

ered, and hath never received any allowance for his subsistence since March, A. D. 1778; and that the pay he receives from the Continent is no ways adequate to his expenses; whereupon, he prayed this Assembly to make him the same allowances as are, and have been, made unto the colonels commanding battalions within this state; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; and that the auditor ascertain the allowances due, agreeably to the prayer thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that the wife of George Wightman, and three children, to wit:

Alice, Daniel and Moses, be, and they are hereby, permitted to proceed in a flag to the island of Rhode Island, with her household furniture.

That Mary Boon, who heretofore obtained liberty to go on the said island, be also permitted to carry her furniture; and that they go under the direction of Col. Greene, or such other officer as shall be appointed by Gen. Gates.

Whereas, there is a small schooner lately come ashore on Point Judith, which was stolen from Bedford, by a number of sailors, with an intent to carry her to Newport; and as the said schooner is the property of a poor man, named ——— Downing, a friend to the United States, and is nearly the whole of his estate,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be recommended to Col. Israel Angell, to cause the said schooner to be secured in some safe harbor.

That he be empowered and requested to recover the sails and other appurtenances of the said schooner, which have been plundered; and that he keep the whole in his possession, until further orders from this Assembly or the council of war.

Upon a pay abstract of a patrolling party of horse, commanded by Col. John Gardner, in August, 1778, presented unto this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said abstract be referred

to the Honorable Major General Gates; and that it be recommended to him to make the same allowances to the persons therein named, as have been heretofore made to the troop of horse who have done service within this state.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, the return of the choice of officers for the alarm company in the town of Coventry was read, and the said officers approved; they are as follows, to wit:

Samuel Wall, captain; Abel Bennett, first lieutenant; Job Greene, second lieutenant; Jonathan Nichols, Jr., ensign.

Joseph Allen is chosen lieutenant, of the first company of militia in the town of Providence, in the room of Hezekiah Dayton, who declined; and Isaac Bowen, ensign, of the same company, in the room of the said Joseph Allen.

Whereas, Sylvester Robinson, Esq., of South Kingstown, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that, by an order of the committee appointed to inquire into and remove suspected persons, he, together with his family, are ordered to be removed to Glocester or Cumberland; and whereupon, he prayed this Assembly to grant him relief in the premises; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the order of the committee, for the removal of the said Sylvester Robinson to Glocester or Cumberland, be, and the same is hereby, annulled.

Upon the petition of Mr. Stephen Potter, of South Kingstown, presented unto this Assembly, respecting the tock taken from the Point Judith farm, belonging to s this state,—

It is voted and resolved, that Gideon Comstock, Thomas Holden and John Jenckes, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to take the said petition into consideration; and that they make report to this Assembly.

Whereas, the town of Johnston hath not assessed the Continental tax, last ordered to be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, and hath requested that a further time

may be allowed to the said town for that purpose; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said town of Johnston be empowered to assess the said tax, at any time on or before the 25th day of September instant; and that the assessors make and deliver a list thereof, to the town clerk of the said town, to be by him immediately forwarded to the general treasurer; who is thereupon empowered to issue a warrant for collecting the said tax, agreeably to the act of Assembly.

Whereas, the Most Honorable the Continental Congress did, on the 18th day of August last, resolve that, until the further orders of Congress, the officers and soldiers of the army should be entitled to receive monthly, for their subsistence money, the following sums, to wit:

Amount of Pay of Officers and Soldiers in the Continental Army, ordered by Congress.

Each colonel,	$500 00
" brigade chaplain,	500 00
" lieutenant colonel,	400 00
" major,	300 00
" regimental surgeon,	300 00
" captain,	200 00
" lieutenant,	100 00
" ensign,	100 00
" surgeon's mate,	100 00
" non-commissioned officer and soldier,	10 00

It is therefore voted and resolved, that no Continental commissioned officer, chaplain, surgeon, or surgeon's mate, be allowed any subsistence money by this state, from and after the 1st day of September instant.

It is further voted and resolved, that the non-commissioned officers and soldiers raised by this state, shall receive

monthly, as their subsistence money, from and after the said 1st day of September, the following sums, to wit:

Pay of Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers in the Army, ordered by the State.

Each sergeant,	$17 00
" corporal,	16 00
" drummer,	16 00
" fifer,	16 00
" private soldier,	15 00

That the subsistence money of such of the said non-commissioned officers and soldiers as have families, be paid to the town councils of the towns to which they respectively belong, for the better maintenance of their families; unless one of the field officers shall recommend any of the said non-commissioned officers or soldiers, belonging to his regiment, as suitable persons to receive the money; in which case, the same shall be paid to such non-commissioned officer or soldier; and that one-and-an-half per cent. be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury to the respective town councils, for transacting the aforesaid business.

It is further voted and resolved, that this act shall not extend to any non-commissioned officer or soldier, who hath been heretofore a slave, and became free by virtue of an act of this state only in consequence of his enlisting into the service.

And it is further voted and resolved, that all the acts heretofore made and passed, for the better subsistence of the said troops, be, and they are hereby, repealed; and that copies of this act be transmitted to the several town clerks in this state.

An abstract for money, due to the officers and soldiers of Col. Archibald Crary's regiment, in lieu of sauce, having been laid before this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy

Deputy Governor, and Jonathan Arnold, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to wait upon the Honorable Major General Gates, and recommend to him to order payment of so much of the aforesaid abstract as shall appear to be due.

Whereas, Gideon Comstock, Thomas Holden and John Jenckes, Esqs., presented unto this Assembly the following report, to wit:

Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, to examine into the affair of certain Stock taken from the Farm at Point Judith.

The subscribers, being appointed by the Honorable General Assembly, to examine into the affair of the stock taken from the farm at Point Judith, now in possession of the state, do report:

That it appears to the committee, that William Gorton and Stephen Potter (son of John), entered into a contract with design to defraud the state of the stock, belonging to the state, that was on the said farm.

That it is the opinion of the committee, that the said Stephen Potter be accountable for all the stock, belonging to the state, that was on the said farm, excepting the sheep delivered to Mr. Job Watson.

That the deficiency is two hundred and twenty-seven sheep, eight cows, and four oxen; the value of which, estimating the sheep at £6, each, the cows at £100, each, and the oxen at £300, a pair, is £2,762, lawful money; from which a deduction is to be made, of £1,214, lawful money, being the amount of the sales of the stock, cart, &c., taken from the said Stephen Potter, by order of the council of war, and sold at public vendue by the sheriff of the county of Kings; which leaves a balance due from the said Stephen Potter to the state of £1,548, lawful money.

That it is also the opinion of the committee, that the said Stephen Potter and Wm. Gorton, enter into recognizance before the Honorable General Assembly, in such sum as shall be thought proper, and submit all disputes, of every nature and kind, between them, to the determination of three good men, to be approved of by the Honorable General Assembly, who shall finally settle and determine the same; and also all matters and things respecting any person employed by the said William Gorton, in driving stock out of this state; and that all actions and prosecutions between the parties cease. All which is submitted to Your Honors.

GIDEON COMSTOCK,
THOMAS HOLDEN,
JOHN JENCKES.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be accepted; that the said Stephen Potter pay the said balance of £1,548, lawful money, into the general treasury, on or before the 1st day of the next session of this Assembly; and that the

said Stephen Potter and William Gorton recognize, with sufficient sureties, to appear at the said session, and to abide the further order of this Assembly respecting them.

And it is further voted and resolved, that Enoch Hazard, and Rowse J. Helme, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed to ascertain the balance due from the said William Gorton, to the state, for the rents, taxes, &c., of the farm heretofore leased him in behalf of the state; and that they make report at the said session.

Whereas, Stephen Potter and William Gorton, did, before this Assembly, enter into the following rule, to wit:

Whereas, there are divers disputes and controversies subsisting between Stephen Potter (son of John), of South Kingstown, in the county of Kings, husbandman, and Wm. Gorton, late of South Kingstown, aforesaid, husbandman, concerning the stock and utensils belonging to this state, leased to the said William Gorton, with the Point Judith farm, so called; and also of more private and particular natures; for the settling and determining whereof, the parties agree to submit the same, and every matter in contention between them, to the final end and determination of Thomas Potter, Esq., Samuel Babcock, Esq., and Mr. Caleb Gardner, who are empowered to notify the parties of the time and place they will hear them thereon, and to decide upon their several pleas, charges, allegations and evidences; and that they, or any two of them, agreeing, make report to this Assembly, at the next session, when judgment shall be given on their report, and execution issue thereon, returnable to the next following session; and the parties further agree, that if either of them shall neglect appearing before the referees, upon being duly notified, they shall proceed *ex parte;* which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said rule be approved of; and that the same take place accordingly.

Whereas, Messrs. Stephen Haszard, Stephen Haszard, Jr., Christopher Robinson, Samuel Haszard, Jeremiah Hassard, son of Robert, and the wife of the said Jeremiah, have

prayed this Assembly to be heard upon the charges brought against them; and as this Assembly cannot, at the present session, hear their said petitions,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said Stephen Haszard, Stephen Haszard, Jr., Christopher Robinson, Sam'l Haszard, Jeremiah Haszard and his wife, be permitted to return to their respective homes and places of abode; they severally giving their paroles that they will act and do every thing which good and faithful citizens ought, for the good and safety of this state, and of the United States; and that they will appear before this Assembly, at the next session, to be heard upon their said petitions.

Whereas, Benjamin Shearman hath been adjudged, by the committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of suspected persons, to be inimical to the liberty and independence of the United States; and whereas, there are certain suits and controversies subsisting between the said Benjamin Shearman and David Shearman, upon which judgments have been obtained,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that all the said proceedings be stayed until the further orders of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Jonathan Arnold, Esq., Adam Comstock, Esq., Mr. David Howell and Benjamin Bourne, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to revise and amend the militia laws of this state; and that they form them into one law, and report the same to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the freemen of the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, Jamestown and Middletown, now upon the main, be empowered to choose deputies to represent them at the next October session of the Assembly, and at the following sessions, until the general election in May next.

That the freemen of Newport and Middletown meet for that purpose at the state house in Providence, on the

second Wednesday in October next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

That the freemen of Portsmouth meet at the same time, for the like purpose, at the house of Mr. Abner Durfee, in Tiverton.

That the freemen of Jamestown meet at the same time, for the same purpose, at the house of Mr. Matthew Allen, in North Kingstown; and be also empowered to choose a town clerk; they not having appointed that officer at the last annual meeting.

That the said freemen, in their said respective town meetings, conform themselves to their ancient customs; and that a copy of this resolve be published in the Providence newspapers.

It is voted and resolved, that Major General James M. Varnum be, and he is hereby, directed to cause strict examination to be made of the state of the arms, &c., of the militia, alarm and independent companies, within this state, on the third Monday in October next, as by law is required.

That he cause returns to be made to him of the particular deficiencies in each company, within five days next after such examination; and immediately upon his receiving the same, issue his orders for collecting the fines for each article deficient, agreeably to an act made and passed by this Assembly at the session held in May, A. D. 1778.

That he cause the returns of such deficiencies to be laid before this Assembly at the next session after such examination; and that this act to be published in the next Providence newspapers.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Jabez Bowen, Esq., Esek Hopkins, Esq., and Mr. John Brown, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to wait upon the Honorable Major General Gates, and acquaint him with the reasons why this Assembly, at the present session, have not taken any new measures for enlisting men for the public service; and to assure him, that this Assembly will concur with him, to the utmost abilities of the state, in all such

measures as may promote the cause of the United States.

His Excellency the Governor having laid before this Assembly a letter from Jonathan Williams, Esq., at Nantz, written by the desire of Benjamin Franklin, Esq., minister plenipotentiary from the United States of America, at the court of Versailles, with Berenger's history of Geneva, as a present from the said Benjamin Franklin to this state,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Excellency the Governor be requested to acknowledge the receipt of the said letter and books, and to express the sincere thanks of this Assembly to the said Benjamin Franklin for the said present.

That the secretary write in the title-pages of each of the volumes, "A present from the Honorable Benjamin Franklin, Esq., L.L D. and F. R. S., for the use of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations;" and that the said books be placed in the library, at Providence, until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that John Rose and Frederick Wyllis, two inhabitants of New Shoreham, who were taken by an American privateer, and are now in the custody of the sheriff, be delivered to Col. Christopher Greene; who is directed to send them, with their examinations, to the Honorable Major General Gates, to be treated as prisoners of war, or dismissed, as he shall think proper.

It is voted and resolved, that the General Assembly, which by law is to be holden on the last Wednesday in October next, convene at South Kingstown on the last Monday in the aforesaid month, for the dispatch of business; any law or custom to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed at the last session, to examine and remove dangerous persons, be continued for the purposes of their appointment.

That they proceed as they shall think most conducive to the public interest.

That Stephen Potter and Thomas Tillinghast, Esqs., be added to the said committee; of which any three shall be a quorum; and that they make report to this Assembly at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the council of war take such measures as they shall think best, to procure a sufficient quantity of clothing for the Continental troops raised by this state; and that they apportion one thousand five hundred pair of stockings to, and upon, the several towns, in the same manner as stockings have been heretofore apportioned for the state troops; for which they shall allow at the rate of forty shilling per pair.

It is voted and resolved, that Ensign John Hubbard, of Colonel Israel Angell's battalion, be promoted to the rank of lieutenant, in the said battalion, in the room of Lieutenant Benedict Tew, who resigned; that his appointment take place from the 19th day of May last.

That Ensign Joseph Wheaton, of the same battalion, be promoted to the rank of lieutenant, therein, in the room of Lieutenant Thomas Waterman, who resigned; that his appointment take place on the 1st instant; and that they be commissioned accordingly.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

	£	s.	d.
Matthew Manchester, for his time and expenses as one of the committee to inquire into the conduct of suspected persons	94	12	0
Othniel Gorton, for the same service	100	10	0
Paris Gardner, deputy sheriff, for attending the above committee	41	16	0
Thomas Rumreil, for service on same committee	86	00	6
Adam Comstock, " " " "	37	16	0
William Arnold, " " " " at his house	120	14	6
Abiezer Briggs, a soldier in Col. Lippitt's regiment, for a gun and bayonet lost by him at the battle of Trenton	8	06	0
Jonathan J. Hazard, for attending the council of war, as a member	78	00	0
Esek Hopkins, " " " " "	78	00	0
Joseph Jenckes, " " " " "	78	00	0
Preserved Pearce, " " " " "	72	00	0
John Northup, " " " " "	74	19	0

	£	s.	d.
Edward Perry and Freeman Perry, for expenses of law suit against Thos. Kinyon	126	10	3¾
Edward Perry and Freeman Perry, for expenses of law suit against Immanuel Northup, formerly sheriff of Kings county	31	09	6¼
Gideon Comstock, for attending the council of war as a member	78	00	0
Thomas Potter, Jr., for the expenses at his house of the committee to remove disaffected persons	103	12	0
Jeremiah Cane, a soldier, to enable him to defray his expenses to Boston, to join the corps of invalids at that place	15	00	0
Capt. Ebenezer Adams, for the use of Matthias Enos, a soldier in Colonel Crary's regiment	8	17	0
Mrs. Hannah Spencer, for nursing, boarding, &c., two sick soldiers	2	14	0
Mrs. Abigail Tomkins, " " " " " "	3	12	0
The Governor, for his services as one of the committee of war	99	12	0
Pardon Gray, " " " " " "	30	18	0
The Deputy Governor, " " " "	84	00	0
Peter Phillips, for services on the committee to inquire into the conduct of suspected persons	30	08	0
Capt. ——— Remington and Peleg Arnold, for materials furnished for building a battery at Pawtuxet	54	19	00
Abraham Greene, for his attendance upon the General Assembly, at the present session, as waiter	18	00	0
William Channing, for his services and expenses as clerk of the General Assembly at the last session	24	08	0
Arnold Stafford, for his attendance upon the General Assembly at the present session, as waiter	18	00	0

God save the United States of America.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on the last Monday in October, 1779.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that His Excellency the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to write immediately to Major Gates, desiring him to prevent any goods or merchandize, of any kind whatsoever, which are now upon the island of Rhode Island, from being disposed of and carried from thence, or the property thereof being changed, until

this Assembly shall give directions therein, excepting for the use of the army.

Whereas, the enemy have evacuated this state, in consequence whereof the service of the militia guards, that have been placed upon the shores thereof, are no longer wanted,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said guards be, and they are hereby, dismissed; and the commanding officers of posts where such guards have been placed, are hereby required to dismiss them accordingly; and that a copy of this resolve be sent to each of the said commanding officers.

It is voted and resolved, that all acts and laws heretofore made, prohibiting the inhabitants of this state from going upon the islands of Rhode Island and Jamestown, and holding correspondence, and trading with the inhabitants thereof, while the said islands were in possession of the enemy, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that it be recommended to His Excellency the Governor to permit Mrs. Ann Wright, Edw. Hall and Mr. Benjamin Sheffield, to pass to New Shoreham, and back again, under such restrictions as he shall direct.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kings forthwith procure a sett of stone steps to be placed at the entrance, into the east end of the state house in the said county, and that he lay the accounts for the same, before this Assembly for payment.

It is voted and resolved, that a general embargo be laid upon all goods whatsoever; that none be exported or carried without this state, either by land or water; and that James M. Varnum and Rowse J. Helme, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draft a bill for that purpose, and lay the same before this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Providence forthwith take into possession, for the use of this state, a tract of land lying in the town of Glocester, lately

belonging to Robert Auchmuty, Peter Luce, Estes Hatch and Henry Overing, who are represented as enemies to this and the United States; and that the said sheriff make inquiry who is in possession of the same, and who hath received the profits of the said lands since the 19th of April, A. D. 1775, and make return thereof to this Assembly.

A general subsistence abstract for Col. Israel Angell's regiment, for the month of August last, having been laid before this Assembly, was read, and committed to the auditor, who reported that he had examined the particular abstracts making the general abstract.

That he found them right; and that the sum of $7,153 1-6, is due thereon.

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said sum of $7,153 1-6, in Continental money, be paid out of the general treasury, unto the said Israel Angell, for the purpose of discharging the said abstract.

Whereas, John Case hath heretofore been confined as a person inimical to the liberty and independence of the United States, and since he was liberated from the said confinement, hath been suspected and is now charged with, having been concerned in writing a threatening letter to Othniel Gorton, Esq., speaker of the lower house of Assembly, and chairman of the committee appointed by the Assembly for apprehending suspected persons,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said John Case be committed to the jail in the county of Kings, and there closely confined until the further orders of this Assembly.

Whereas, Mr. John Gardner, Jr., of South Kingstown, and divers other persons, good citizens of this state, had in the spring of the year past, a very considerable number of neat cattle, sheep, &c., taken from their farms in Point Judith, and carried by the enemy to Rhode Island.

And whereas, the enemy have lately evacuated the same, and left part of the aforesaid stock (as it is said,) upon the said island,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended unto the Hon. Major General Gates to permit the said John Gardner to discriminate and point out the stock that was taken from him, and others, if any there should be remaining upon the said island; and upon his proving to the satisfaction of General Gates, or those whom he shall appoint, that they are the identical cattle, &c., and are not claimed by individuals, that he permit the said John Gardner to receive the same for the use of the then owners; but if claimed, as aforesaid, that the said cattle, &c., be secured until proper inquiry can be made relative to the same.

Whereas, the following persons, to wit: Stephen Haszard, Stephen Haszard, Jr., Samuel Haszard, Christopher Robinson, Jeremiah Haszard (son of Robert), Jeremiah Haszard (son of Jeffery), Jabez Reynolds, Thomas Haszard (son of Jeremiah), Silas Spink, Nathan Allen and his wife, Nicholas Spink and Benjamin Shearman, were heretofore removed on suspicion that they were inimical to the United States, and held a correspondence with the enemy; and that their remaining at their respective homes was dangerous to the safety of the public; but as the enemy, since their removal, have departed from Rhode Island,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the persons before named, be, and they are hereby, permitted to return to their respective homes, notwithstanding any former order of this Assembly; provided nevertheless, that the said persons shall be held amenable for their conduct as aforesaid, whenever it shall be ordered by this Assembly on evidence appearing against them.

Whereas, by the death of John Cole, Esq., the office of advocate in the court of admiralty in this state became vacant, and no person hath since been appointed to that office,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that James Mitchel Varnum, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed advocate of the said court.

It is voted and resolved, that the following persons be chosen to the offices hereafter mentioned, to wit:

Officers of the Militia Chosen.

Bennett Wheeler, lieutenant; and Samuel Yeates, Jr., ensign, of the third company of militia in the town of Providence.

Joseph Snow, Jr., lieutenant; and Lemuel Field, ensign, of the fourth company of militia in the said town.

Thomas Congdon, captain; George Colvin, lieutenant, and William Warner, ensign, of the first company of militia in the town of Cranston.

Pardon Burlingame, ensign, of the third company of militia in the said town of Cranston.

Andrew Angell, captain; and Nathaniel Lovell, first lieutenant, of the alarm company in the town of Scituate.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Joseph Seagar be permitted to subscribe the test heretofore ordered to be subscribed by the inhabitants of this state.

Whereas, it is absolutely necessary for the supplying the inhabitants of the town of Newport with provisions, that the communication from the main land to Rhode Island, should be restored, by establishing and keeping up the ferries; and whereas, the wharves of the South Ferry, in South Kingstown, and on the west side of Jamestown, are entirely destroyed,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Enoch Haszard, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to make application to the original proprietors of the said ferries, requesting them immediately to put the same into passable repair, by the 4th day of November next; that upon their neglecting or refusing to repair the same, the said Enoch Haszard immediately proceed to repair the said wharves; that he do the business in the most frugal manner, having no more work done than is absolutely necessary for making the ferries passable; that two proper boats be hired, with persons to

attend them; that the following ferriages be taken between South Kingstown and Jamestown; and also between Jamestown and Newport, to wit:

Rates of Ferriage between Newport and South Kingstown.

	£	s.	d.
For every footman,		09	0
" a man and horse,		18	0
" a drift horse,		18	0
" every neat beast above two years old,		20	0
" " yearling,		18	0
" " calf,		06	0
" " hog,		05	0
" " sheep or lamb,		04	6
" " horse and riding carriage,	3	00	0

" heavy goods, six shillings per hundred weight; and in that proportion for any less quantity.

And that the moneys arising from the said ferriages be paid into the general treasury, to pay the expense of building the said wharves, &c.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the original owners of the said ferries, by applying and paying the expenses which this state may be at in repairing the said ferries, shall have the same delivered unto them, to be made use of, for their own private advantage.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the ferrymen attending the said ferries, be subject to the same penalties, rules and regulations as are already provided by the laws now in force in this state; saving and excepting, that in case any ferryman shall demand a higher price for any article than is herein affixed, he shall be liable to pay double the sum of the article so demanded; to be recovered in manner as in by the acts heretofore made for regulating ferries is directed and prescribed.

Whereas, the freemen of the towns of Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown, did not convene, to make choice of deputies to represent their respective towns, agreeably to

the resolution of this Assembly passed at the last session; and whereas, since the passing of the said resolution, the said towns have been evacuated by the enemy, and have come into the possession of this state; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the freemen of the said towns of Portsmouth, Middletown and Jamestown be, and they are hereby, empowered to meet at the usual places within their respective towns on the second Wednesday of November next, to choose deputies to represent them at the next session of this Assembly, and at the following sessions, till May next.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said freemen when convened as aforesaid, be, and they are hereby, empowered to choose a moderator of said meeting, and the town officers which by law are to be appointed within their respective towns; provided, nevertheless, that every person within the said towns, who hath signed the association, or taken an active part with the enemy, be excluded from electing or being elected to any office within the said towns, or of voting or acting in the said town meetings.

Ordered, that a copy of this resolution be published in the next Providence newspapers.

Whereas, twenty copies of the journals of Congress have been received from Philadelphia, for the use of this state,—

It is voted and resolved, that they be distributed in the following manner, to wit: that one of the said copies be delivered to the secretary, and one to the clerk of the house of deputies, five to and for the use of the county of Newport, four to each of the counties of Providence and Kings county, three to the county of Kent, and two to the county of Bristol.

Whereas, Mr. William Vincent exhibited unto this Assembly, an account charged by him against the state, for his expenses, medicines and attendance, as surgeon of Col. Joseph Noyes's regiment of militia, in August, A. D. 1778; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said account, amounting to £30 14*s.*, lawful money, be referred to the director-general of the hospitals within this state; and that he make such allowance thereon, as is agreeable to the resolutions of Congress.

Whereas, representation is made to this Assembly, that on the night following the 17th day of October instant, a certain seditious paper or libel, was affixed at the door of the Hon. Othniel Gorton, Esq., in Warwick, highly insulting, and threatening him for having acted as chairman of a committee heretofore appointed by this Assembly, for inquiring into the conduct of persons suspected as enemies to this country; and whereas, such conduct is highly criminal and derogatory to the honor and dignity of government, and tends to introduce anarchy and confusion,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that in order that such criminal conduct may be detected and punished, a reward of $500, to be paid out of the general treasury, be, and the same is hereby, offered to any one who shall give information of any person or persons, who were aiding, assisting, or consenting to the writing or setting up the said seditious paper, so that he or they so concerned, may be duly convicted thereof.

And it is further voted and resolved, that if any person or persons concerned in writing or setting up the said libel, shall discover his accomplices, so that he or they may be convicted, as aforesaid, he or they making such discovery, shall be pardoned for the said offence, and entitled to the reward above mentioned.

Whereas, the inhabitants of the town of Newport have, since the enemy were in possession of the island of Rhode Island (which is now evacuated by them), been deprived of their corporate powers; and whereas, it is necessary for the well ordering and conducting the prudential affairs of the said town, that a town meeting be held, and the usual town officers chosen; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the inhabitants of the said

town of Newport meet in town meeting on Tuesday, the 2d day of November next; and that they be, and are hereby, empowered to choose a moderator, town clerk, and other town officers; provided nevertheless, that every person within the said town, who hath signed the association, or taken an active part with the enemy, be excluded from electing, or being elected, to any office within the said town; and from voting or acting in the said town meeting; and that the said town meeting exclude such persons, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the acts of this Assembly heretofore made for prohibiting the inhabitants of New Shoreham from passing and re-passing to and from the main, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said inhabitants of New Shoreham be not permitted to transport any articles of provisions, or merchandize whatever, from the main, or any other part of this state, without permission from this Assembly, or the council of war; saving and excepting, timber for the implements of husbandry, and ashes, and all articles brought from said New Shoreham, and altered or manufactured into different forms, may be returned when altered and manufactured; provided, a certificate be obtained from a justice of the peace, in the town where such articles shall be so altered or manufactured, that the carrier declared on oath, or affirmation, that the same are of the produce of the said island.

It is voted and resolved, that a further time be allowed for collecting the money ordered to be paid into the Continental loan office, by the inhabitants of this state; and that the same be paid into the said loan office by the 1st day of December next.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the town treasurers of the several towns be, and they are hereby, empowered to issue warrants of distraint against their respective inhabitants who have not paid into the loan office the sums by them respectively subscribed, and the fees for collecting

the same; that the said warrants be directed to the collectors of taxes within the towns where such subscribers are inhabitants; that thereupon the said collectors be, and they are hereby, empowered to collect the said sums, and pay the same into the said loan office, agreeably to the resolution of this Assembly; and that the said collectors be allowed and receive the same fees as are allowed for collecting taxes.

It is voted and resolved, that Joseph Maxson be, and he is hereby, appointed first lieutenant; Peleg Berry, second lieutenant; and Silas Greenman, ensign, of the alarm company in the town of Westerly.

Whereas, it appears from the late general muster and review throughout this state, that there are many deficiencies in arms, bayonets and cartouch-boxes; and that from the late particular situation of this state, while a part thereof was in possession of the enemy, it was very difficult for the inhabitants to provide themselves agreeably to law; and whereas, it is represented that the delinquents are desirous of furnishing themselves as soon as may be,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the collecting the fines as ordered at the last session of this Assembly, be suspended until the 1st day of December next; that all delinquents who shall furnish themselves by the said time, and make due proof thereof to the colonel or commanding field officer in whose district they live, be exempted from the said fines; and that a return of their names be made to the brigadier generals or commanding officers of their respective brigades, and by the said brigadiers to the major general, by the 1st day of January next; and by him to the next succeeding session of the General Assembly; provided always, that the fines of all such as shall remain delinquent after the said 1st day of December, be immediately thereafter collected agreeably to law.

Whereas, Theodore Foster, William Channing and Adam Comstock, Esqs., presented unto this Assembly the following reports, and account by them charged against the state, to wit:

Reports of the Committees appointed by the General Assembly to examine into the Petition of Edward Kitchen Wolcott, of Brookline, Massachusetts, relative to the Point Judith Farm.

The subscribers having been appointed a committee by the Honorable the General Assembly to take into consideration and report what is proper to be done upon the petition preferred by Mr. Edward Kitchen Wolcott, of Brookline, in the state of Massachusetts Bay, setting forth, that his wife is entitled to one-quarter part of the farm called the Point Judith farm, lying in South Kingstown, heretofore belonging to Henry Sewall, Esq., deceased, which hath been taken into posssession by this state; and praying that the same may be delivered to him in right of his said wife, to be holden as tenant in common with this state, until a division shall be made; and that he may be paid one-quarter part of the rents thereof, which have been received by this state, do report, that after having carefully examined the subject matter of the said petition, and the proofs adduced in support thereof, do find:

1st. That Henry Sewall, Esq., being possessed of the said Point Judith farm, did, on the 11th day of August, A. D. 1767, make his will, and devised one-half thereof to his son, Samuel Sewall; and the other half to his son, Henry Sewall, as tenants in common, and to their respective heirs and assigns, for ever.

2d. That the said Henry Sewall, the testator, died, on the 29th day of May, A. D. 1771, leaving one daughter, Hannah Sewall, who married the petitioner.

3d. That Henry Sewall, eldest brother of the petitioner's wife, died on the 17th of October, A. D. 1772, intestate, and without issue.

4th. That after the death of the said Henry, her brother, the petitioner's wife, and her brother Samuel Sewall were the only surviving children of the said Henry, the testator.

5th. That of consequence, the said Hannah, and her brother, Samuel Sewall, appear to be the only legal heirs of the said Henry, her brother.

6th. That the said Hannah, the wife of the petitioner, is heiress at law, and entitled to one-quarter part of the whole estate which belonged to her father, at Point Judith and would inherit the same, was there no intervention of the Legislature to prevent it.

And as it appears from a certificate of the selectmen of the town of Brookline, that they look upon the petitioner to be a good friend to the United States, your committee further report, as their opinion, that it will be just and proper to grant the prayer of the said petition, and beg leave to recommend the same accordingly.

THEODORE FOSTER, WILLIAM CHANNING.
ADAM COMSTOCK,

The aforegoing having been reported to the General Assembly at their session in August last, when it was suggested that John Hull, the original proprietor of the said Point Judith farm, had by his will devised the same, in such manner, that the said farm was subject to an entailment, to the exclusion of the present petitioner; whereupon the matter was re-committed for further consideration; your committee therefore do report:

That on further examination, they find, from an original record, duly certified, that the said John Hull died intestate; that after his decease, a division of his estate was agreed upon by his heirs, and established by a court for the county of Suffolk; and that it does not appear to your committee that the said estate was entailed, as has been suggested.

THEODORE FOSTER,
WILLIAM CHANNING,
ADAM COMSTOCK.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; and that agreeably thereto, the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; that the possession of one-quarter part of the said farm be delivered to the said Edward K. Wolcott, in right of his wife, to be holden as tenant in common with this state; and that one-quarter part of the rents thereof already received by this state, be paid to him; provided nevertheless, that this resolve, granting the prayer of the said petition, shall not affect any right or title this state may have to the said farm, in case it shall hereafter appear that the same was the property of Samuel Sewall at the time the whole of the said farm was taken into possession by this state.

It is further voted and resolved, that the sum of £13 10*s*., lawful money, being one-half part of the committee's account, to wit: Theodore Foster, William Channing and Adam Comstock, be allowed and paid them out of the general treasury; the remaining half-part of the said committee's account, Edward K. Wolcott, the petitioner, having agreed to pay.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the same committee be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to examine what rents have been received by this state for the said Point Judith farm, and to ascertain the balance due to the said Edward K. Wolcott, agreeably to the aforegoing resolve; they charging him with one-quarter part of the taxes assessed on the said farm, and having due consideration to the stock thereon; and that the said committee make report as soon as may be.

An Act for the confiscating the estates of certain persons therein described.

Whereas, all countries have a right to the personal services of its inhabitants, the greatest exertions of whom, in their different capacities, are especially requisite for the defence and protection of their lives, liberties and properties,

during the actual invasion of enemies; and a refusal or withdrawing the same, being against the rights of human society, and the being voluntarily adherent to public enemies, by giving them aid or comfort, or the seeking of their protection, amount to a total renunciation of all former rights, privileges and inheritances, whatever; and whereas, since the King and Parliament of Great Britain, have tyrannically framed, and attempted with fleets and armies to introduce into these United States, a most cruel system of despotism; at the same time declaring the inhabitants thereof out of their protection; sundry of said inhabitants, regardless of their ties and obligations aforesaid, have left their habitations, joined and been adherent to the enemies aforesaid, thereby giving them aid and comfort; or continued to reside in places invaded by, or in the power of, said enemies, and have voluntarily aided or abetted them; therefore,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that every inhabitant and member of the late colony, now state, of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, or of any other of the late colonies or provinces, now United States, of America, who since the 19th day of April, A. D. 1775, hath levied war, or conspired to levy war, against any of the said provinces or colonies, or United States, or who hath adhered to the said King of Great Britain, his fleets or armies, enemies of the said provinces or colonies, or United States, thereby affording them aid or comfort; or who, since the said 19th day of April, A. D. 1775, hath withdrawn, without the permission of the legislative or executive authority of this or some other of the said colonies or provinces, or United States, from any of them, into parts or places under the acknowledged authority and dominion of the said King of Great Britain, or into any other parts or places within the limits of any of the said provinces or colonies, or United States, being in the actual possession and under the power of the fleets or armies of the said King; and who hath died in any of the

said parts or places, or hath not returned into some one of the said United States, and been received as a subject thereof; or hath continued to reside in places invaded by, or in the power of, said enemies, and have voluntarily aided, assisted or abetted them, shall be held, taken, deemed and judged to have voluntarily renounced all civil and political relation to each and every of the said United States, and be considered as an alien.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all and every the lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, whether held in fee simple, fee tail, for term of life or years; and all estates in remainder or reversion, and all goods and chattels, rights and credits, of every kind, and all other estates and interests whatsoever, of which any of the persons herein before described, were seized or possessed, or were entitled to have and demand, to and for their use, benefit and behoof, shall be forfeited, inure and accrue to the Governor and Company of this state, and accordingly are declared so to be forfeited, inure and accrue, to be and remain for their sole use, benefit and behoof, in as full and ample manner as the persons aforesaid were, or were entitled to be, seized or possessed of the same.

Aud whereas, it is necessary that some mode of trial should be instituted, whereby to determine what estates are forfeited by force of this act; and whereby those persons, who may be accused of offences in this act described, may have their estates defended in the best manner that their situations will admit of,—

Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the attorney general of this state, or such other person or persons as shall be appointed by the General Assembly for that purpose, may, and shall, exhibit to the justices of the superior court of judicature, &c., an information or complaint, against any person who hath offended in manner before in this act described; and who at the time of such offence commited, or at any time, whereby the same is, or may be, forfeitable, according to this act, owned or held any

lands, tenements or hereditaments, whether held in fee simple, fee tail, for term of life or years, or any estates in remainder or reversion, or any goods or chattles, rights or credits, or any other estate or interest whatsoever, within the county for which said court shall be holden, therein setting forth clearly and plainly the offence such person is charged with, and a full and true description of the estate in such complaint or information demanded as forfeited.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any information or complaint which shall be exhibited to the justices of said court, the said court shall continue to the then next term of said court, which shall be holden in the same county where the same lands, tenements, and other estates or interests, lie.

Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, that the justices of the superior court be empowered specially to convene on the second Thursday in November next, at Providence, to receive such complaints or informations as shall be then exhibited to them, agreeably to this act; and the justices of said court shall thereupon continue the said complaints or informations, those which may respect the lands or other estates being in the county of Newport, to a special superior court of judicature, &c., to be holden at Tiverton, in the county of Newport, on the first Monday of January next; that the complaints or informations which may respect lands or other estates in the county of Kings, be continued to a special superior court of judicature, &c., to be holden in the county of Kings on the the third Monday in January next; and those informations or complaints which may respect lands or other estates being in the county of Bristol, to a special superior court of judicature, &c., to be holden in the county of Bristol on the last Monday in January next; and the justices of the said superior court are hereby empowered to meet at the times and places above mentioned, to try and determine said informations and complaints, agreeably to this act.

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a

number of jurors be drawn in the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton, to attend said court to be held in the county of Newport, agreeably to law; and that the said court cause a number of jurors sufficient for filling said jury to be taken up in the manner as is directed in the act of this Assembly heretofore empowering said court to meet in said town of Tiverton; that jurors be drawn in the counties of Kings and Bristol, to attend said courts to be held within said counties as are directed by law, to be drawn to attend the several courts within said counties; and that if any town neglect to draw jurors, or if any person who is drawn a juror, shall neglect to attend said courts, agreeably to this act, the delinquent town or juror shall be subject to the same penalty as in other cases is by law provided.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said justices shall order their clerk of the court, to which the said complaint or information shall be exhibited, to make out a notification thereof, containing a description of the lands and tenements, or any other estate, whether real or personal, alledged to have been forfeited as aforesaid, and shall cause the sheriff, or his deputy, to insert an attested copy thereof in all the newspapers printed in this state, within thirty days after the rising of the court to which complaint or information shall be made; and to leave an attested copy thereof at the mansion house of the premises demanded; or in case there be no mansion house, to post up the same in some public place in the town in which such lands or other estates lie; and shall also cause an attested copy of such notification to be left at the last and usual place of abode of the person accused, if any he had within this state, thirty days at least before the sitting of the court to which the same suit shall be continued; and at the term or meeting of said court to which the said complaint or information shall be continued as aforesaid, the said court shall proceed to the trial of the same, unless there shall appear good and sufficient reason for a further continuance; first causing proclamation to be made for any

person or persons who have claim to the same estate, in such information or complaint mentioned, described and demanded, either in their own right, or on the part and behalf of the person accused, or of any person whomsoever, to come and defend the same suit; and said court shall admit as a party any person or persons who shall appear to take the defence of the same upon him or them as aforesaid; and the issue shall be tried by a jury in the known and ordinary course of law used and approved in this state, to try whether such estate demanded, or any part thereof, is forfeited by force of this act; and if such jury shall return their verdict that they find the same estates, or any part thereof, forfeited as aforesaid, the court shall proceed to give judgment thereon, and issue their writ of execution in behalf of the said Governor and Company, to cause them to be seized or possessed of the same.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when judgment shall be given by the superior court of judicature, &c., for the forfeiture of the estate of any such person accused as aforesaid, that in all prosecutions for other parts of such person's estate in any county within this state, the only question shall be, whether the estate demanded, is the property of the person, a part of whose estate hath been adjudged forfeited as aforesaid; and all complaints or informations, pleas and issues, shall be regulated accordingly, and no evidence of such adjudication shall be allowed other than the record of the same, or an authenticated copy thereof.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all the debts justly due, before the time of the commission of the offence, to any subject of the United States, from any of the persons who are afore described in this act, shall be payable out of their respective estates.

Resolved, that a copy of this act be inserted in the next Providence newspapers.

It is voted and resolved, that James M. Varnum and Wel-

come Arnold, Esqs., and Mr. John Brown be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to inquire into, and report, the most probable and expeditious ways and means of furnishing this state with small arms, accoutrements, and military and ordnance stores; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that James M. Varnum, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to assist the attorney general in the prosecution of informations which may be filed before the superior court within this state, agreeably to an act of this Assembly for confiscating the estates of persons therein described.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Jabez Bowen, Esq., James M. Varnum and Henry Ward, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draught a letter to His Excellency General Washington, and the delegates of this state in Congress, upon the subject of the troops being called from this state, and present the same to His Excellency the Governor, by him to be approved, signed and forwarded as soon as may be; and that they lay a copy of the said letters, before this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that a council of war be, and they are hereby, appointed with the same powers and authority as was granted by an act of this Assembly, which first appointed the said council in December, A. D. 1776; that the members of the said council be allowed the sum of £6, lawful money, per day, for each and every day they shall be employed in attending upon the same, in full compensation for their services and expenses.

Whereas, this Assembly have been informed that large quantities of salt are now purchasing up in Newport on the public account; and whereas, this state is in a very distressed situation on account of the great scarcity of that article, owing to the embargoes in the neighboring states, and the distress will be still further increased, in case the salt now

in the state be exported therefrom, as no channel of supply can at present be opened while the embargoes continue,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the Honorable Jabez Bowen, Esq., Peter Phillips, Esq., and Mr. Isaac Senter be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to wait upon the Honorable Maj. General Gates, to know of him what quantities of salt have been found in Newport; and to represent to him the absolute necessity of disposing of the same for the use of the inhabitants of this state, and recommend that no greater quantity be taken for public use than will be sufficient for supplying this department; and that Gen. Gates be requested to order that the salt taken from the disaffected persons be delivered to the said committee, to be disposed of as this Assembly shall hereafter direct.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Hawkins be, and he is hereby, appointed a referree upon the submission before this Assembly, between William Gorton and Stephen Potter, in the room of Col. Thomas Potter, who hath declined serving; and that they make report to this Assembly at the next session.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, made choice of the following persons to constitute the council of war, to wit:

Members of the Council of War Chosen.

His Excellency William Greene, Esq., Governor.

The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq., Deputy Governor.

Esek Hopkins, John Jenckes, Gideon Comstock, Caleb Gardner, Pardon Gray, Thomas Rumreill, Joshua Babcock, Samuel Babcock, Jonathan T. Haszard, Peter Phillips, Paul Mumford, William Bradford, Nathan Miller, Thomas Tillinghast and James Arnold, Esqs.

It is voted and resolved, that John Case, now confined in jail in the county of Kings, by order of this Assembly, at the present session, on suspicion of his having been concerned in drafting a threatening and insulting libel, and af-

fixing the same before the door of Othniel Gorton, Esq., be liberated from his confinement, on his giving bond, before Samuel Babcock, Esq., with sufficient sureties for his good behavior, and his appearance at the next superior court of judicature, &c., to be holden in the county of Kent, to answer such charges as may then be exhibited against him.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

	£	s.	d.
Major James Sumner, for subsistence	75	00	0
Enoch Hazard, for repairing the ferries at South Kingstown and Jamestown,	600	00	0
Paul Mumford, for his time, horse hire and expenses, for attending the council of war, as a member	63	16	0
William Channing, for services and expenses as clerk of the house	29	13	0
John Waite, for carrying express to South Kingstown	7	00	0
Christopher Greene, as one of the committee for examining and removing disaffected persons	79	12	0
Mathew Allen, for victuals, drink and horse keeping furnished the committee to examine and remove disaffected persons	51	11	6
Haszard Champlin, for wood furnished for the General Assembly at the present session	6	00	0
Paris Gardner, for attendance on the Assembly as waiter, for carrying expresses, cleaning court house, &c.	35	02	0
Nathaniel Helme, for attendance as waiter	19	10	0

God save the United States of America.

Public Acts Passed at the May, June, August, September and October Sessions of the General Assembly.

An Act to prevent the fish from being obstructed in their course into Puncatest, alias Nomquit Pond, and the branches of the river running into said pond, lying in Tiverton. (May.)

An Act regulating the toll to be taken by millers. (May.)

An Act for dividing the second battalion of militia in the county of Kings into two battalions. (May.)

An Act in addition to an act for the more effectual preventing the fish from being interrupted in their course of Pawcatuck, alias Narragansett river. (May.)

An Act assessing and apportioning a tax of £60,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of the state. (June.)

An Act assessing and apportioning a tax of £225,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state, for the payment of the Continental tax apportioned to this state by a resolution of Congress. (June.)

An Act for raising fines for not appearing to mend highways. (August.)

An Act to prevent non-commissioned officers and soldiers raised by this state, or doing duty within the same, from being carried off in any vessel by sea. (September.)

An Act to raise the sum of £100,000, lawful money, to supply the Continental loan office in this state, with its quota of the $20,000,000, recommended by Congress to be furnished by the inhabitants of the United States, upon loan. (September.)

An Act empowering the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, to take cognizance of all acts of piracy and felony committed on the high sea. (September.)

An Act for inquiring into the conduct of persons employed, and not immediately appointed by Congress, in the staff departments of the army within this state. (September.)

An Act prohibiting slaves being sold out of the state, against their consent. (October.)

An Act prohibing the breaking bulk of prize vessels, &c., until condemnation, or permission be obtained therefor. (October.)

An Act laying an embargo. (October.)

An Act for the preservation of the public buildings in this state, erected or improved for the use of the army; and for appropriating to the use of the public, the lands where they are erected, and where batteries or fortresses have been made, and for obliging individuals to account for public property which may fall into their possession. (October.)

An Act for augmenting the fines laid upon the non-attendance of the independent troop of horse in the county of Providence, called the Captain General's Cavaliers. (October.)

An Act for the better forming, regulating and conducting the militia force in the state. (October.)

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the second Monday in December, 1779.

His Excellency William Greene, Governor.
The Hon. Jabez Bowen, Deputy Governor.

A general subsistence abstract for Col. Israel Angell's regiment, for the months of September, October and November last past, having been laid before this Assembly, and duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that $15,191 25, in Continental money, being the sum due thereon, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to discharge the same, in the following manner, to wit: $12,857 25, to Major Simeon Thayer, to be carried on to the regiment, to be paid to the officers and soldiers to whom the same is due respectively; and $2,334, to the town councils of the several towns in

which the families of the non-commissioned officers and privates reside, for their support, agreeably to the list presented to this Assembly.

Whereas, William Rhodes, Esq., sheriff of the county of Providence, who was directed at the last session to take into possession certain lands in Glocester, belonging to Robert Auchmuty and others, &c., presented unto this Assembly the following report, to wit:

Report of the Sheriff of Providence County to the General Assemsembly, relative to his taking possession of certain lands in Glocester, &c.

In pursuance of the order of the General Assembly, at the last session, I have proceeded into the town of Glocester, and made inquiry of Richard Steere, Esq., the town clerk, who gave me the information and description of three tracts of land formerly laid out to Col. Estes Hatch and partners, which is herewith presented; that I attached the same for the state, as the property of the persons in the vote of the Assembly mentioned; that the said lands being entirely wild and unimproved, I cannot find that any person hath had any profit thereof; and that there is no other land in Glocester which appears in any wlse to belong to the said persons.

Fees £24. WILLIAM RHODES, Sheriff.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that John Jenckes, Esq., be and he is hereby, appointed to receive of Mr. Cromel Child the pig iron, shot and sea-coal in his hands, belonging to this state; and that he have the said pigs manufactured into bar iron; and dispose of the shot and coal to the best advantage for the state.

It is voted and resolved, that the agent-clothier receive of Capt. John Garzia $12 for each pair of shoes, and $6 for each pair of stockings, ordered to be delivered him for the use of Col. Robert Elliott's regiment, by a resolution of the council of war, of the 3d instant; and that the said agent-clothier be accountable for the money by him so received, to this state.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., agent-

clothier, purchase leather sufficient to make two hundred pair of shoes; that he have the same manufactured by the soldiers of General Cornell's brigade; and that he deliver the shoes as the General Assembly or council of war shall order from time to time.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed not to dispose of the Continental loan office certificates now in the treasury of this state, until the further orders of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £145 16*s.*, lawful money, be allowed and paid to Mr. Stephen Franklin, out of the general treasury, for corn taken from him by the town council of the town of Westerly; it being the sum paid by the said town council therefore, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that John Reynolds, Esq., the agent-clothier, deliver to Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, the state-clothier, three hundred shirts and two hundred hats, for the use of the two Continental battalions raised by this state; and that Welcome Arnold, Esq., and Mr. John I. Clark be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to agree with the said John Reynolds upon the price which shall be allowed the state for the same.

Whereas, there are divers resolutions of Congress, and public letters of great importance, now laying before this Assembly, which require immediate consideration,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that John Sayles, Paul Mumford, David Howell, Metcalf Bowler and Theodore Foster, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee for that purpose; and that they make report thereon, as soon as may be.

The petition of divers inhabitants of the town of Newport, presented unto this Assembly, praying that Capt. John Stanton, now a prisoner of war at Providence, may be permitted to go to Newport, and remain with his family, until called for by his parole, being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said John Stanton be,

and he is hereby, permitted to reside with his family at Newport, under the direction of General Cornell.

Whereas, a number of vessels were heretofore sunk by the enemy in the harbor of Newport, having on board a quantity of provisions and other articles; and others have been burnt on the shores of this state, from the wrecks of which many valuable articles may be taken; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that Caleb Gardner, Esek Hopkins John Northup, Nathan Miller and Adam Comstock, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to employ proper persons, upon the most reasonable terms they can, in taking out of the said vessels, for the use of this state, the goods and effects which remain therein, or appertain to the same; or otherwise dispose of the said goods and vessels at public vendue, as shall appear to the said committee most for the advantage of this state; and that they make report thereon, to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. James Carpenter be, and he is hereby, permitted to take into possession his real estate in the town of Bristol, which hath been leased by order of this Assembly; that the said James Carpenter receive the rents due for the present year; and that he be paid the rents which have been received by the state, when the same shall be ascertained.

The petition of Christopher Ellery, Esq., preferred unto this Assembly, praying that he may have liberty to transport through this state a quantity of provisions coming from his farm in Connecticut, for the use of his family, being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same his hereby, granted.

Whereas, a large number of the inhabitants of the town of South Kingstown, and others, have petitioned this Assembly, that a certain bill respecting the fishery in the Point Judith ponds, which was presented unto this Assembly, should not be passed into an act; that certain laws hereto-

fore made respecting the said fishery be repealed; and that the rights and privileges of the people at large should be ascertained respecting the said fishery; and this Assembly having received said petition, and referred the consideration thereof unto the next session of this Assembly, by adjournment,—

Do vote and it is voted and resolved, that the said petition be then heard, on the third day of the next session; that all persons who lay claim to the said ponds, and imagine they have exclusive rights of fishing therein, may, if they see fit, appear then, and be heard upon the premises; and that this resolution be published three weeks successively in all the newspapers in the state.

Whereas, Capt. Silas Talbot, commander of the sloop Argo, a vessel of war, fitted out, pursuant to a resolution of Congress, for the immediate defence of this state, hath represented unto this Assembly, that the said vessel is now in the harbor of Providene, having a number of men, stores and provisions on board, sufficient for a cruize against the enemies of the United States of America, and hath applied to this Assembly for directions in what manner to proceed with the said vessel; and as the said vessel and men are employed at the expense of the public, their remaining in this state the present winter will not probably tend so much to the public good as if employed in a cruize on the high seas against the enemies of these United States,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, agreeably to the request of the said Silas Talbot, that a commission be granted him to proceed on a cruize; and that he be, and hereby is, directed to observe such instructions as he shall receive with the said commission from His Excellency the Governor.

Whereas, in pursuance of an act of this Assembly, informations have been filed against the estates of certain persons who have withdrawn themselves with the enemy from this or some other of the United States of America; or have voluntarily aided or assisted the enemy; and whereas, several actions have been commenced by private

persons, and some of them are now pending in the courts of law within this state, against the persons who have so aided or assisted the enemy,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said actions, and all proceedings thereon, be stayed; and that no action in future be commenced or prosecuted against any of the persons or estates of those against whom informations have been, or may be, filed, agreeably to the said act.

It is further voted and resolved, that this Assembly will, after the determination of the said informations, take such steps respecting the claims upon the said estates, as shall be conducive to justice, and enable the creditors to obtain their just demands; and that a copy hereof, be published in the Providence newspapers.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Amos Cheeseborough be, and he is hereby, permitted to remove from the town of Westerly, into the state of Connecticut, one horse, one cow, seven sheep, and the household furniture lately belonging to Ann Gavet, formerly of said Westerly, but now the wife of the said Amos Cheeseborough.

The rate-list for the town of Tiverton's proportion of the last Continental tax, ordered by this Assembly, not having been delivered to the general treasurer in season,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to issue his warrant to the collector of taxes of the said town, to collect its proportion of the said tax, and to pay the same, with the interest due thereon, into the general treasury; and that the said warrant shall be returnable in twenty days after the rising of this Assembly.

Whereas, Samuel Freebody, Esq., of Newport, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, representing that the estate lately advertised in the public papers as the property of John Freebody, in consequence of an act made at the last October session, entitled, "An act for confiscating the estates of certain persons therein described," is not the estate of the said John Freebody, but was the estate of his mother,

Mrs. Judith Freebody, who died intestate, while the British troops were in possession of the town of Newport, leaving issue six children, all of whom have a right therein; and therefore prayed that all proceedings against the said John Freebody may be stayed; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the information against the estate of the said John Freebody, pending before the superior court, to be holden at Tiverton, on the first Monday of January next, be continued to the March term of said court, to be holden in the county of Newport.

Whereas, by the act of this Assembly, for raising a brigade of troops, to do duty within this state, no provision is made, by which any officer or soldier doing service therein, who may be charged with being the putative father of a bastard child or children, may be taken upon a warrant issued for the indemnification of the town to which such child or children is or are liable to become chargeable; and whereas, disputes have arisen respecting the legality of such warrants so issued,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that any officer or soldier, belonging to the said brigade, who hath, or may be, charged as the putative father of a bastard child or children as aforesaid, shall be liable to the maintenance of such child or children, agreeably to law; that the usual process issue against such officer or soldier; and that thereupon the commanding officer of the said brigade be, and he is hereby, directed to permit the same to be executed, that such officer or soldier may be dealt with agreeably to law.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of $400,000 be assessed upon the inhabitants of this state, for the payment of this state's proportion of the tax recommended by Congress; that one-half part thereof, be collected and paid to the keeper of the Continental loan office, by the 1st day of February next; and the other half part thereof, by the 1st day of March next; that the said one-half part thereof, be levied, collected and paid into the treasury of this state, for the purpose aforesaid, by the said 1st day of February

next, and the other half part, by the said 1st day of March next; that William Richmond, Welcome Arnold, Rowse J. Helme, Thomas Holden and Nathan Miller, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to apportion the said tax to the several towns within this state; and that they make report as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the resolution of the council of war, empowering Mr. Valentine Wightman to purchase and transport to Boston fifty hogsheads of tobacco, agreeably to the request of the navy board, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is further voted and resolved, that the resolution of the council of war, permitting Mr. Samuel Goldthwait to proceed in a flag to New York, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Zebedee Grinnell, Esek Hopkins, Joseph Stanton, Jr., Adam Comstock and Benjamin Bourne, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draft a bill for the amendment of the act for assessing of taxes upon individuals in the several towns within this state.

Whereas, the time for which many of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers entered in the Continental battalion raised by this state, commanded by Col. Israel Angell, is nearly expired, and Congress have recommended to this state to keep up their quota of troops as much as possible, for public defence; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that Jonathan Arnold, Paul Mumford, David Howell and Rowse J. Helme, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to consider of the best ways and means to recruit the said battalion; and that they report as soon as possible.

The petition of Mr. John Croswell, preferred unto this Assembly, representing that he is now a prisoner on parole in the town of Providence, without money or business; and that he hath a mother and family in the town of Newport, who are very poor and needy, and praying that he may be

permitted to remain in this country, that by his industry he may be enabled to relieve his distressed family, being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said John Croswell be, and he is hereby, permitted to return to Newport, there to continue under the direction of General Cornell, until the further orders of this Assembly, or of the council of war.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee heretofore appointed to take an estimate of the rateable property within this state, be, and they are hereby, instructed not to estimate the islands lately in the possession of the enemy, until the further orders of this Assembly.

A pay abstract for Sergeant John Pearce's guard, consisting of twenty men, doing duty on the shores of North Kingstown, for seventy-eight days, exhibted unto this Assembly, being duly considered, together with the auditor's report thereon,—

It is voted and resolved, that the amount thereof, being £468, lawful money, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury to the said John Pearce, to be by him paid to the respective persons named in the said abstract.

Whereas, it is represented unto this Assembly, that the inhabitants of the town of Bristol are in great distress for the want of fire-wood, arising from the scarcity thereof; and that there is a considerable quantity of the said article which may be spared from the farm lately belonging to John Borland, Esq., now in the possession of this state; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that permission be given to cut one hundred cords of wood on the said farm, for the use of the inhabitants of the said town; that fifty cords thereof, be distributed gratis, by the town council of the said town, among such of the inhabitants as they shall judge to be objects of charity; that the remaining fifty cords be distributed by the said council, among the other inhabitants of the said town, as may stand most in need of the same, they paying therefor at the rate of £12 per cord; that Richard

Smith, Esq., collect the money arising from the sale thereof, and pay the same into the general treasury of this state; that the said Richard Smith oversee the cutting and measuring of the same, taking special care that as little injury as possible be done to the said farm; and that he be paid for his expenses and services in and about the said town of Bristol.

Whereas, a large ship-anchor, and a quantity of other iron articles, left by the enemy in the harbor of Newport, and which of course became the property of this state, have been brought to Providence by Capt. Jeremiah Clarke, commander of the Pigot galley, and the other officers and mariners thereof, who are justly entitled to an allowance for their services; and as certain of those articles are claimed by divers persons, either as purchasers, or as having assisted in securing the same,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, and Esek Hopkins, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, and fully empowered, to ascertain the allowances which ought to be made to the captain, other officers and mariners of the said galley, for their aforementioned services, and to determine the claims of all persons to any of the aforesaid articles; that the said anchor be reserved until further orders; that the other articles be delivered to John Jenckes, Esq., who is hereby directed to dispose of the same, with the other iron ordered to be delivered to him by Mr. Cromel Child, agreeably to a resolve passed at this session; and that the said committee make report to the council of war, as soon as may be.

His Excellency the Governor having laid before this Assembly an order from Congress, dated the 12th day of November last, upon the keeper of the Continental loan office in this state, to pay to the order of the Legislature thereof, $300,000,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor be, and he is hereby empowered and requested to receive the said sum of $300,000 from the

keeper of the said loan office; and that he lodge the same in the general treasury of this state, giving and taking receipts therefor.

Whereas, Mr. Ichabod Potter preferred a petition unto this Assembly, representing that Thomas Bannister, late of Newport, an absentee, was greatly indebted to him; that before the present war, he hired of the said Thomas Bannister a farm, lying in Middletown, in order to discharge the said debt; that in General Sullivan's expedition on Rhode Island, the enemy burnt the dwelling-house on the said farm, together with the out-houses, his household furniture, hay, &c.; that he, with his family, left the said farm, and retreated with the American army from the said island; that there still remains due to him a considerable sum of money, which he hath no way to obtain, as the estate of the said Thomas Bannister hath been confiscated to and for the use of this state, but by the intervention of this Assembly; and thereupon the said Ichabod Potter prayed that he may have a lease given him of the said farm, for a term of time adequate to the money due to him, without paying any other rent therefor; and that he may have the privilege of making use of one of the barracks on Rhode Island as a dwelling house upon the said farm; and the said petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Ichabod Potter be, and he is hereby, permitted to enter upon the farm heretofore improved by him in Middletown, lately belonging to Thomas Bannister, and improve the same for the space of four years, from the 25th day of March next; that he be permitted, under the direction of General Cornell, to remove one of the barracks, now on the island of Rhode Island, upon the said farm, to be improved by him as a dwelling-house; that he pay the taxes, which may be assessed upon the said estate, during the said term; and that the improvement of the said estate be in full satisfaction of the debt due from the said Thomas Bannister to the said Ichabod Potter.

Whereas, from many unforeseen and unavoidable causes, the pay of the officers and soldiers of the Continental battalions, raised by this state, hath not fully answered their expectations when they entered the service; and whereas, by their proved fidelity, firmness and intrepidity in service, they merit the particular attention of this state; and that whatever deficiencies shall appear to have arisen from the causes aforesaid, should be made good to them,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that this state will, at the close of the present war, receive an account of the time which the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers, belonging to this state, shall have served in the said battalions; and will then make good to them, or the legal representatives of such of them as shall be then dead, the wages of the establishment of Congress whereon they engaged, according to a late act of this state, entitled "An act against monopoly and oppression," taking for a measure of their wages the prices set to the artices enumerated in the same act; taking into consideration, by the same measure, all bounties, supplies, subsistence, refreshments, gratuities and sums already advanced, or which shall hereafter be given, supplied or advanced, excepting the Continental bounty of £6, and the bounties allowed by this state, amounting to £38.

Provided nevertheless, that whenever Congress shall make the wages of said officers and soldiers good to them as aforesaid, this state shall not be held by this act; and that this act shall not extend to those who shall, without an honorable discharge, leave said service before the time for which they engaged shall expire.

And whereas, it will be much to the advantage of those men who are now doing duty in the said battalions, to have their accounts which have already accrued, adjusted and settled, and the balances paid as soon as possible,—

It is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the council of war convene at any time, when a committee of

officers of the said battalions shall request to settle and adjust all accounts that have already arisen, or shall arise in manner aforesaid, up to the 31st day of December inst., and the balances which shall be found due to the said officers, and those men who have enlisted, or, before the completion of such settlement, shall enlist into the said battalions to serve during the present war, shall be paid immediately after such settlement; and that the balances which may be found due to those whose time of service may expire, and who shall not re-enlist during the war, shall be paid them as soon as the circumstances of the state will admit.

And whereas, the time of service of part of this state's proportion of Continental troops is near expiring, and it will be much to the interest of this and of the United States to retain the same brave veterans in the service of their country,—

Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a bounty of $300 be paid by this state, to each non-commissioned officer and soldier, who has enlisted to serve during the war, as one of this state's quota of Continental troops, in the regiments commanded by Cols. Christopher Greene, Henry Sherburne and Israel Angell, and is now in the service; provided, that the said bounty do not extend to those servants who were enlisted into the battalion commanded by the said Christopher Greene, on condition of procuring their freedom by their services.

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the same bounty of $300 be paid by this state, in addition to the bounty and subsistence allowed by Congress, to each non-commissioned officer and soldier, who may hereafter enlist to serve during the war into the battalion commanded by the said Israel Angell; and to each non-commissioned officer, who may so enlist into the battalion commanded by the said Christopher Greene.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each non-commissioned officer and soldier, who shall engage

and serve as aforesaid, shall be entitled to receive all the benefit provided and promised in this act; and in case the present war shall continue more than one year from and after the passing of this act, the accounts arising as aforesaid, shall be settled, and the balances paid at the end of each year, so long as the same shall continue; and their polls shall be exempted from taxes of every kind, and the estates both real and personal of each officer and soldier, who shall engage as aforesaid, shall be exempted during their continuance in service from all town taxes levied for the purpose of procuring men to go into the army.

Whereas, the justices of the superior court of judicature, &c., are specially to convene in the counties of Newport, Kings and Bristol, in the month of January next,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the attorney general be, and he is hereby, directed in behalf of this state, to prefer to the said court, when so convened in either of said counties, informations against the real and personal estates of all persons whose estates are liable to confiscation, agreeably to an act passed at the last session of this Assembly, and against which informations have not been already filed.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said superior court be, and they are hereby, empowered to receive such informations, and continue the same for trial to the next term of the said court in the county within which such estates lie; and that all other proceedings be had thereon as is directed in and by the said act.

Whereas, Jeremiah Whipple, Esq., hath represented unto this Assembly, that the bridge built over Pawtucket river, between the towns of Cumberland and Smithfield, was first erected by way of lottery, and hath ever since been repaired in that way; that the said bridge is now greatly out of repair; and hath requested, in behalf of the inhabitants of the said towns, this Assembly to grant a lottery for raising the sum of £800, lawful money, for repairing the same; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that a lottery be, and hereby is, granted for raising the said sum of £800, for the purpose aforesaid, undertheusual conditions and restrictions; and that Messrs. John Dexter, Elisha Waterman, George Peck and Jeremiah Scott, of Smithfield, be, and they are hereby, appointed directors thereof.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, that certain anchors, and a quantity of old iron, heretofore belonging to the enemy, but now the property of this state, have been taken by private persons, from the town and harbor of Newport, since the evacuation of that place by the enemy, and without their having received permission for that purpose, from the authority of this state; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed at the present session of this Assembly, to take charge of the vessels which have been sunk, &c., by the enemy, within the harbor of Newport, be, and they are hereby, empowered to call before them the persons who are said to be concerned in taking the same, if inhabitants, or to be found within the state; and if it shall appear to the said committee, that the said persons are guilty thereof, and shall refuse to return or make satisfaction for the same, that they forthwith cause the necessary and legal prosecutions for the recovery thereof, to be immediately commenced against them.

It is further voted and resolved, that if the persons charged, are not inhabitants of this state, or to be found therein, the said committee be, and they are hereby, directed to make inquiry into the same, and to take the most effectual measures, in behalf, and for the interest of the state, for the recovery of the property so taken, or damages for the conversion thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that Esek Hopkins, Esq., and Mr. Nathaniel Mumford be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to ascertain the grants made by this Assembly,

from time to time, either as gratuities, refreshments, subsistence or otherwise, to the field, commissioned and staff officers, and to the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers of this state's Continental troops, commanded by Cols. Christopher Greene, Henry Sherburne and Israel Angell, excepting the bounty of £6, allowed by Congress, and of £38, allowed by this state, to the said non-commissioned officers and soldiers; that the said committee take for their rule, the better to ascertain the same, the act of this Assembly, passed at the present session, for settling the accounts of the said officers and soldiers, and for recruiting the battalion commanded by the said Israel Angell, and Christopher Greene; and that they report to this Assembly, or the council of war, as soon as may be.

The following statement of the account of Henry Marchant, Esq., a delegate from this state in Congress, and the auditor's report thereon, being laid before this Assembly, to wit:

Statement of the Account of Henry Marchant, Delegate in Congress from Rhode Island.

1779.	State of Rhode Island, to Henry Marchant,	Dr. £ s. d.
June 3.	To the expenses of myself, servant, and two horses, from June 3, to December 18, 1779, to, at, and from Philadephia, as per account of particulars	2,089 09 9½
	To my services, and the use of my two horses, during the above being one hundred and ninety-eight days, at £12 per day	2,376 00 0
		£4,465 09 9½

Creditor.

1779.		
May 8.	By cash received of the general treasurer	600 00 0
Sept. 8.	" " " " Michael Hillegas, Esq., Continental treasurer, for which this state is accountable	900 00 0
Nov.	By cash received of Michael Hillegas, Esq., Continental treasurer, for which this state is accountable	1,800 00 0
		£3,300 00 0
	Balance due Henry Marchant	1,165 09 9½
		£4,465 09 9½

Errors excepted, HENRY MARCHANT.

Providence, December 19, 1779.

I do report, that I have examined the foregoing charges, which appear, by the original entries in the said Henry Marchant's memorandum book, to be right; that he produced vouchers for the most material articles of board, washing, horse-keeping, &c., that the charge for his services is right cast; and that the articles of credit, of which I have no knowledge, being right, there is a balance due to the said Henry Marchant of £1,165 9*s.* 9½*d.*

NATHANIEL MUMFORD, Auditor.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted; and that the said balance of £1,165 9*s.* 9 1-2*d.*, lawful money, be paid the said Henry Marchant, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that William Ellery, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed and empowered to meet the convention of commissioners from the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, or such of them as shall convene at Philadelphia, on the first Wednesday of January next, for the purpose of considering the expediency of limiting the prices of merchandize and produce; that if they judge such a measure to be expedient, they proceed to limit the prices of such of the said articles as they shall think proper, in their several states, in such manner as shall be best adapted to their respective situations and circumstances; and that they report their proceedings to their respective legislatures; and every power necessary thereto, is hereby given and invested in the said William Ellery, in behalf of this state, in as full and ample manner as in and by the proceedings of the convention of the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, which met at Hartford, in the state of Connecticut, the 20th day of October last, is advised and recommended.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said William Ellery be, and he is hereby, also directed to urge to the said commissioners the absolute necessity of repealing all acts for laying inland embargoes; and that the same be strongly recommended to the respective states; and His Excellency

the Governor is hereby requested to commissionate the said William Ellery, accordingly.

Whereas, the navy board, at Boston, have appointed Mr. Valentine Wightman, to purchase and carry from this state, to Boston, a quantity of tobacco, agreeably to a resolution of Congress, and have requested permission for transporting the same to the town of Boston; and whereas, the said Valentine Wightman hath purchased upwards of twenty casks of tobacco, against which a prosecution hath been commenced, upon suggestion that the same was purchased in violation of an act of this Assembly, laying an inland embargo within this state; and whereas, it is of great importance to the United States, that the Continental agents should not be obstructed in their purchases, but that they should receive every encouragement and assistance in the same; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the tobacco purchased as aforesaid, be released from the said prosecution; and that the same be, and hereby is, permitted to be transported to Boston, agreeably to the request of the said navy board.

Whereas, John Collins, Esq., one of the delegates from this state in Congress, made it known to the council of war, at their last meeting in Newport, that he was prepared to set off for Philadelphia, to attend his duty in Congress; and whereas, this state can be represented in Congress by one member, until the confederation of all the states shall be established, which as yet is not done,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the said John Collins not to proceed to Congress, until the further orders of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John York be, and he is hereby, permitted to carry out of the town of South Kingstown, into the town of Stonington, in the state of Connecticut, one ton of pig iron, which he bought of Mr. Phinehas Miner, in September last.

It is voted and resolved, that Major Simeon Thayer be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £15,000,

lawful money, out of the general treasury, for paying the bounties allowed to the men who have enlisted, or may enlist, into the battalion under the command of Colonel Israel Angell, agreeably to a resolution of this Assembly; that the said Israel Angell, Lieut. Col. Jeremiah Olney, and the said Simeon Thayer be empowered and requested to distribute the said money in such a manner as shall best answer the purpose for which it is granted; provided, that but one-half part of the bounty allowed to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers who have already enlisted during the present war, be paid out of the money; and that the remaining sum be appropriated to the payment of the bounties of such as shall hereafter enlist, agreeably to the said resolution.

The memorial of Colonel Christopher Greene, and Major Simeon Thayer, preferred unto this Assembly, praying that the officers of the two battalions of this state may be furnished with clothing for the year 1780, at moderate prices, proportioned to their pay, agreeably to a resolve of Congress, passed November 22, A. D. 1777, being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that every commissioned officer in the Continental battalions raised by this state, commanded by Cols. Christopher Greene and Israel Angell, be supplied as soon as possible, with the following articles of clothing for the year 1780, to wit: one hat, one coat, one waistcoat, one pair of breeches, one pair of boots, two pair of shoes, three pair of stockings, four shirts and two pocket handkerchiefs; that the said articles be purchased by the agent-clothier, and delivered to the said officers by the state clothier, in just proportion to their wages; charging the surplus of the cost to the United States, agreeably to the resolves of Congress, respecting the clothier's department.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the officers of Col. Henry Sherburne's regiment, who belong to this state, be also supplied with the articles of clothing aforesaid, upon the same terms and in the same manner as before mentioned.

Whereas, Ephraim Bowen, Jr., Esq., deputy quartermaster general, made a request to this Assembly for seven hundred cords of wood, for the use of the army, to be delivered at the following places, to wit:

Providence, - -	400 cords,
Fulling Mill and East Greenwich, -	200 "
Updike's Newtown, - -	100 "
	700 "

to be delivered within four weeks after the rising of this General Assembly; and represented that the said quantity, with what can be collected at Tiverton and Freetown, will serve the troops through the winter; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the inhabitants of this state, to furnish the wood above requested, for the use of the army, and deliver it at the places and within the time above mentioned, at the going prices at the time of the delivery; and it is recommended to the said Ephraim Bowen, Jr., to pay for the said wood, accordingly.

Whereas, Caleb Gardner, Thomas Rumreill and Christopher Ellery, Esqs., deputies from the town of Newport, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, representing that the evacuation of the said town by the British troops was so late in the season, that the boats first employed in carrying wood, were taken off to transport forage; and that the poverty of many of the inhabitants is such, that it was impossible to supply the said town with wood; by reason whereof, they are now in the deepest distress, and must soon perish for want of that necessary article, or be obliged to quit their habitations; and thereupon prayed this Assembly, in behalf of those unhappy people, to grant a sufficient sum of money out of the general treasury, to supply the poor inhabitants of the said town with two hundred cords of wood, or otherwise grant them relief; and the said petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that one hundred and sixty cords of wood be granted for the use of the poor of the town of Newport, to be distributed under the direction of the said Caleb Gardner and Peleg Clarke; that one hundred cords of the said wood be cut off from the farms in the town of Bristol, lately belonging to Isaac Royal and John Borland; and sixty cords thereof, from off the farm in North Kingstown, lately belonging to Gervas Elam and George Rome; that the cutting of the said wood in Bristol, be under the direction of Nathan Miller, Esq.; and of that in North Kingstown, under the direction of Peter Phillips, Esq.; and that the said Caleb Gardner and Peleg Clarke be empowered to draw the sum of £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, to pay for cutting, carting and transporting the said wood to Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that Jonathan Arnold and John Reynolds, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to make an estimate of what quantity of wool will be necessary for the state to manufacture into clothing, for the Continental troops raised by this state; and to consider of the best ways and means of purchasing and procuring the same to be manufactured; and that they report to this Assembly at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the recognizance of Stephen Potter, of South Kingstown, and of his surety, be continued to the next session; that he be, and hereby is, ordered to appear accordingly; and that the committee appointed to adjust and settle the several accounts between the said Stephen Potter and William Gorton, make reports to this Assembly at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Stephen Peckham be, and he is hereby, permitted to transport from the town of Scituate, into the state of Massachusetts Bay, three firkins of butter, and five hundred weight of cheese, for the payment of his rent.

Whereas, Capt. Silas Talbot, commanding officer of the sloop Argo hath represented unto this Assembly, that the

officers and men under his command, have received encouragement from the Honorable Major General Gates, that they should be supplied with the same clothing as is allowed the officers and men in the brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. Cornell; but that he hath not been able to procure the same; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Silas Talbot be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £4,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for purchasing the necessary clothing, for the use of the said officers and men; and that he retain in his hands such a part of the wages and prize money which shall be due to the said officers and men, as shall be sufficient to satisfy for the said clothing so furnished, to be paid to this state, in case the same shall not be approved of by Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that William Channing, Esq., as attorney general of this state, be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £800, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for the payment of the court and officers' fees, upon the informations preferred to the superior court, &c., against the estates of absentees, agreeably to an act of this Assembly; and that he account for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that Major Simeon Thayer be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw the sum of £200, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for defraying the expenses of his journey from camp to Providence, and back again, upon the service of this state; and that it be, and hereby is, recommended to Ephraim Bowen, Jr., Esq., deputy quartermaster general, to furnish the said Simeon Thayer with a horse, for the use of a soldier to attend him to headquarters, in the state of New Jersey.

It is further voted and resolved, that the secretary be, and he is hereby, appointed to draught recruiting instructions, to be made out in the name of, and approved by, His Excellency the Governor, or His Honor the Deputy

Governor; and that the same be printed and delivered to the said Simeon Thayer, as soon as may be.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury, viz.:

	£	s.	d.
Arthur Fenner, Jr., for his services as clerk of the superior court	76	10	0
Daniel Box, for his pay and subsistence as major of brigade	449	12	0
Preserved Pearce, for attendance as a mumber of the council of war.....	24	00	0
Thomas Sheffield, as one of the committee to value boats.....	28	16	0
Pardon Gray, " " " " "	1	10	0
" " for storing a large quantity of flax seed belonging to the state,	218	12	0
" " " one hundred and thirty casks of flax seed.....	1,075	16	0
Rowse J. Helme, for expenses in apprehending divers persons, and carrying them to East Greenwich.....	31	08	0
William Ellery, delegate to Congress, on account.....	300	00	0
Amos Lawrence, for his attendance on the General Assembly, as waiter,..	25	04	0
William Channing, for his services and expenses as clerk of the General Assembly at the last session	54	14	0
William Compton, for attendance on the General Assembly, as waiter....	42	00	0
David Branch, " " " " " "	84	00	0
Simeon Thayer, for defraying the expense of his journey from Providence and back again, upon the service of the state	200	00	0

God save the United States of America.

Public Acts Passed at the December Session of the General Assembly.

An Act to prevent to prevent desertion.

An Act establishing and regulating fees.

An Act for assessing and apportioning a rate or tax of £120,000, lawful money, upon the inhabitants of this state.

General Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, 2d January, 1778.

Sir:—Enclosed you will receive a copy of a letter from General Varnum to me, upon the means which might be adopted for completing the Rhode Island troops to their full proportion in the Continental army. I have nothing to say in addition to what I wrote the 29th of the last month on this important subject,* but to desire that you will give the officers employed in this business all the assistance in your power.

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke.

* The letter above referred to, is not found in the archives of the state.

General Varnum to General Washington, relative to the Enlistment of Negroes in the Continental Army.

Camp, January 2d, 1778.

Sir:—The two battalions from the state of Rhode Island being small, and there being a necessity of the state's furnishing an additional number to make up their proportion in the Continental army; the field officers have represented to me the propriety of making one temporary battalion from the two, so that one entire corps of officers may repair to Rhode Island, in order to receive and prepare the recruits for the field. It is imagined that a battalion of negroes can be easily raised there. Should that measure be adopted, or recruits obtained upon any other principle, the service will be advanced. The field officers who go upon this command, are Colonel Greene, Lieutenant Colonel Olney, and Major Ward; seven captains, twelve lieutenants, six ensigns, one paymaster, one surgeon and mates, one adjutant and one chaplain.

I am Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

J. M. VARNUM.

To His Excellency General Washington.

Whereas, the records of the town of Newport and Middletown, have been taken into possession of the enemy, and carried from this state; and whereas, their being detained can be of no service to the enemy, but highly detrimental to the public,—

It is therefore ordered, that His Excellency the Governor be requested to write immediately to General Washington, requesting him to use his utmost influence with General Clinton, to return them as soon as may be.

The Governor of Rhode Island to General Washington.

Warwick, state of Rhode Island, &c,
November 3d, 1779.

Sir:—I most sincerely congratulate Your Excellency upon the enemy's having evacuated Rhode Island; but am sorry to be under the necessity of troubling you with a resolution of the council of war, of this state, which I take the liberty to enclose; by which you will please to observe the distressed situation the inhabitants of those towns must labor under for want of their records. That I doubt not you will take every necessary measure that may tend to convince General Clinton of his error in continuing to hold them, as they certainly cannot be of any use to the enemy, exclusive of the pleasure they enjoy in distressing mankind, who are not to be controlled by them.

I am, with every sentiment of respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

W. GREENE.

To His Excellency General Washington, headquarters.

The Governor of Rhode Island to Samuel Huntington, President of Congress.

Warwick, state of Rhode Island, &c.,
November 5th, 1779.

Sir:—I had the honor of receiving your favors of the 9th and 20th of last month, containing their enclosed by you mentioned; and shall take the earliest opportunity to lay them before the General Assembly.

I am, with great truth,
Your most obedient and most humble servant,
W. GREENE.

To His Excellency Samuel Huntington, President of Congress.

General Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, West Point,
23d November, 1779.

Sir:—I had the pleasure of Your Excellency's favor of the 3d, with the enclosure. It is with the utmost satisfaction that I join my congratulations with yours, on the evacuation of Rhode Island.

In a letter of this date, to Sir Henry Clinton, I have represented the loss of the records mentioned in the resolution of the council of war, and requested his interference for their restoration. I can promise nothing from any influence of mine in this quarter, but what arises from the propiety of the request. On receiving his answer, I shall immediately transmit it to Your Excellency.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest regard,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,
G. WASHINGTON.

To His Excellency Governor Greene.

The Governor of Rhode Island to General Washington.

Newport, state of Rhode Island, &c.,
December 3d, 1779.

Sir:—I had the honor of receiving your favor of the 23d of last month, and am much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken to endeavor to procure the records belonging to the distressed inhabitants of the towns of Newport and Middletown, to be returned to this state.

Since General Gates left this place, there is no person empowered to sign warrants upon the Continental paymaster for discharging of abstracts which have become due to the several regiments doing duty in this department, under the command of Gen. Cornell; and there being the greatest necessity of the troops being punctually paid agreeably to contract, the council of war of this state have requested me to desire the favor of you to appoint some proper person to draw warrants on the above paymaster for the purpose aforesaid.

I am, with very great esteem and respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,
W. GREENE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

General Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.

Headquarters, Morristown,
25th December, 1779.

Sir:—The enemy having asked permission for an unarmed vessel to proceed to Newport with clothing and necessaries for the prisoners at Rutland, I have granted a passport for the same, to proceed from the port of New York. I thought it necessary to give Your Excellency this notice; and that the quartermaster may have time to make preparation for their transport to Rutland. Two sergeants have also permission to pass from Taunton river to Rutland, to superintend the delivery of the articles, and to return again.

On the 19th I was honored with Your Excellency's letter of the 3d. It is certainly right and necessary that troops should be paid with punctuality, or as much as circumstances will admit. I do not however conceive myself authorized to make the appointment Your Excellency requests, and shall take occasion to submit the matter to Congress; who, it is probable will make some arrangement in consequence, not only to comprehend the present, but other cases.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest regard,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

To His Excellency William Greene, Esq.

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